



**WHAT DRIVES A  
PEACE-LOVING MAN  
TO KILL?** Section Two, page 2



**ADDRESS ARR-ON-  
THE-PAS** Page 17

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## More protection urged after PC is battered with iron bar

# Police patrols to be armed with CS gas

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Police patrol officers are expected to be armed with CS gas sprays by the summer as part of a national trial, it emerged yesterday.

The news emerged as a chief constable called for greater protection for his officers, after four of them were injured in two separate attacks in Birmingham by armed gangs. In one case a policewoman had her skull fractured after being hit with an iron bar.

In another incident yesterday, four people were stabbed at a job centre in Kent - including one man left with a carving knife embedded in his head - when a woman went on the rampage.

The use of CS sprays will be discussed at an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) meeting in three weeks. Members are expected to give the go-ahead to street trials of hand-held spray canisters that are carried on an officer's belt and can incapacitate an attacker within seconds.

Trials were planned in 18 police forces last year but serious problems cast doubts on the future of such sprays. Testing was halted after a Metropolitan Police instructor needed hospital treatment for burns to his eyes after being sprayed by CS gas. Civil liberties groups have argued that not enough is known about the side-effects of the sprays and that their use is unnecessary.

However, a report by ACPO's Self Defence, Arrest, and Restraint sub-committee will tell this month's meeting of police chiefs that the problems have now been overcome.

Street trials are expected to start in the summer after the re-training of officers. The lightweight 3in-long canister has a range of around 3ft.

CS is a white powder which affects the tear glands and mucus-secreting areas of the face, causing watering eyes, sneezing and coughing.

Ann Widdecombe, Home



Sir Ronald Hadfield: 'Need to protect officers is now clear'

Office Minister, said yesterday that the need for police to be issued with an incapacitant spray was accepted, and suggested it was up to chief constables to get them to the officers on the beat. She said: "I am keen they should be made available."

The use of "pepper" sprays has been effectively shelved after a Home Office study warned that people with breathing problems and pregnant women could be at danger. In the past year, officers have been given new, longer batons and many forces provide protective vests.

Police chiefs yesterday pointed to two attacks against constables in Birmingham as examples of why officers needed further protection. In the early hours of yesterday morning, during a call to a suspected burglary in Birmingham, PC Vanessa Greening, 22, was hit over the head with an iron bar as she went to help 30-year-old PC Jon Jackson, who was lying unconscious after being struck with a sledgehammer.

PC Greening was recovering in hospital yesterday and PC Jackson received six stitches to an arm wound.

Sir Ronald Hadfield, the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, said: "My fear is that it will take the death of an officer before measures are taken to give my officers protection. The only answer in the slow march towards arming all police is the introduction of some form of incapacitant such as CS gas or pepper which is used in America."

Sir Ronald said extra protection was needed for the police because assaults on officers were up five per cent on last year. He pointed to the current nationwide knives amnesty as evidence of the growing problem of violence. He also referred to the attack at a Birmingham supermarket five days ago in which ten people were seriously injured by a man who ran amok with three knives.

In the second incident in Birmingham yesterday, two officers received injuries when they were attacked by a five-man gang brandishing knives, including a seven inch blade.

Eight men were helping police with inquiries.



In the line of duty: PC Vanessa Greening recovers after being hit over the head with an iron bar as she went to the aid of a colleague during a call to a suspected burglary

## Concern as blood stocks plummet

LOUISE JURY

Blood stocks in England and Wales have fallen to 20 per cent below the minimum level set by the transfusion service last year.

Managers have blamed the flu epidemic and normal Christmas hush in donations. But some staff and donors believe recent controversies have prompted many donors to stop giving. They also suspect managers failed to organise supplies quickly enough.

Yesterday, stocks stood at just over 12,000 units, compared with 15,000 which blood transfusion service officials have told staff they would be unhappy to fall beneath. A unit is the treated product from a pint of blood taken from a donor.

Dr Colin Entwistle, the recently retired medical director of the Oxford Blood Transfusion Centre, said: "I think they are sailing horribly close to the wind for comfort, leaving very little room for the unexpected. This is a service where you cannot safely take the risk of running out."

A blood service insider said some areas were "dangerously low". Yesterday the Liverpool centre held about 530 units compared with some 2,000 during September and October. "A severe road traffic accident can use 90 units, or hundreds of them if it's really bad. It is absolutely diabolical."

As early as 11 December, Austin Gray, chief executive of the National Blood Authority's western zone, covering Birmingham, Bristol, Oxford and Wessex, warned that its efforts to maintain levels were "still proving to be inadequate... Clearly the national picture on blood stocks is giving grave cause for concern."

Supplies in blood transfusion centres dropped below the 15,000-unit level - a day and a half's supplies - on 14 out of 19 occasions when statistics were collated in December.

When there was concern over faulty blood bags in June, the service had 14,251 units in stock,

not enough to allow National Blood Authority (NBA) managers to withdraw all the suspect bags straight away.

One insider said: "The NBA are on the record as having stated at the beginning of 1995 that they would aim in general for a stock of around 20,000 units and would not be happy if it went below 15,000 units."

Sue Kilroe, of the Merseyside and North Wales Donors and Patients Association, said a shake-up of the service, which will downgrade some centres including Liverpool, had angered donors. They had also been upset by proposals to consider commercial sponsorship and by reports in the Independent that



surplus blood products were being sold abroad at a profit.

"The NBA has said the low stocks are down to flu and Christmas, but the people I've spoken to are just not giving because they are so annoyed."

The National Blood Authority yesterday urged donors to keep appointments but said there was no need for alarm. "The first two weeks of January are notoriously the lowest stock levels of the year. We're collecting what we're being asked for by the hospitals."

Yesterday, the separate Scottish blood service had three days' supplies instead of the four or five it prefers to stock, and was also appealing for donors.

## Perks bonanza for investors in Railtrack

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Almost 11,500 Railtrack employees are in line for a windfall in May after the Government announced it was pressing ahead with the company's £2bn privatisation, despite fierce opposition.

Private investors will get at least 30 per cent of the shares and are being promised special discounts, which the Government hopes will ensure the success of one of its most important privatisations yet.

The Government had said it aimed to sell Railtrack during spring 1996, and yesterday Sir George Young, transport secretary, published outline details of the timetable.

As with last year's sale of shares in PowerGen and National Power, the public offer will only be conducted through Share Shops, run by banks, building societies, stockbrokers and other financial firms.

The sell-off will be preceded by a £4m marketing campaign in March, during which key financial details will be released. As with past privatisations, private investors will pay for shares in two instalments.

Shares offered to the public will be priced at a discount to those for city institutions, and there will be special incentives for Railtrack employees, including free shares worth £160. They will also be entitled to £2 of shares for each year of service.



Bob Horton: His employees are set for sell-off windfall

vice, plus two free shares for every one bought, up to a maximum value of £250.

City firms will tender through a separate offer in which they will have to bid for shares before knowing the final price. Despite Labour threats to de-rail the sale of Railtrack, which owns the track, signalling and stations, the Government is keen to secure the sale before the next election. Analysts expect it to raise about £2bn, which could provide tax cuts.

TURN TO PAGE TWO

## Camelot aims to block bid by lottery syndicate

REBECCA FOWLER

Camelot, the national lottery operator, has warned it will shut down ticket terminals if there is any evidence of an international syndicate trying to seize this week's record £40m jackpot.

An Australian syndicate of 2,500 players, led by a Romanian mathematics expert, is said to be eyeing Britain's lottery, after successfully winning first prizes and more than £25m in 14 lotteries world-wide.

But the syndicate would need to purchase tickets worth £14m to cover all possible combinations of numbers. It would also have to take a significant risk on how many individual players will come up with the winning combination, and share a stake in the prize.

A spokeswoman for Camelot said that the company was confident that a major syndicate would not succeed, but it was on standby for any abnormalities in sales for this week's lottery, which are expected to reach record levels because of the frenzy surrounding the jackpot.

"If there was any evidence of a commercial syndicate in action we would close down the terminal straight away, or instruct the retailer not to sell any more tickets. It would stick out like a sore thumb," the spokeswoman said. "But the risk of sharing the prize, and the logistics of buying and filling out 14 million tickets by hand, make it difficult if not impossible for any attempt of this kind."

Stefan Mandel, the head of the Australian syndicate which recently won £15m in the Virgin lottery in the United States, has perfected his system over 34 years. He first used his mathematical knowledge to

crack the Romanian lottery in 1964 and escape from its communist regime to Australia.

Mr Mandel set up the International Lotto Fund in Melbourne when he was working as an insurance salesman, by persuading customers, including many doctors, lawyers and accountants, to join. The syndicate now employs 30 accountants, and operates from a large office.

Last year Mr Mandel said of the British lottery: "Not worth the effort unless the prize fund gets really big."

However, even if Mr Mandel did pull off a British lottery sting, he and his shareholders risk not being able to collect their prize. Camelot is not liable to pay out the jackpot on a ticket that it knows or suspects has been resold or otherwise transferred by the way of trade.

Making a killing, page 3  
Winning-ticket odds, page 17

## Why Does Your Memory Fail You?



A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating, whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

**Simple Technique**

And yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. What's more, it can even work like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness. Everyone owes it to himself to find out more about this method.

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### IN BRIEF

#### Mobile moans

The "consumer's verdict" on mobile telephones is that both the networks and the equipment are too unreliable. Page 5

#### Disney dust-up

Fighting broke out at Disneyland Paris when some workers tried to go on strike. Page 13



#### Married stress

The wives of executives who are made redundant are under more strain than their husbands. Page 7

#### England bowled over

Paul Adams, the 18-year-old picked by South Africa for his bowling not his batting, yesterday probably settled the Test series against England. Page 26

#### Today's weather

Eastern regions will be cloudy with a chilly wind. There will be showers in western areas and Scotland. Section Two, page 17

## Diet discovery hard to stomach

DANNY PENMAN

Scientists may have discovered the ultimate recipe for slimmers - a pill that will fool the body into believing it has just enjoyed a big meal.

A team at Hammersmith Hospital in London has discovered that a small protein known as GLP-1 is produced after rats have eaten a heavy meal. The protein stops the animals from eating too much. When it was blocked by the scientists, the rats over-ate.

Stephen Bloom, professor of endocrinology at the hospital, says that the mechanism of satisfaction is likely to be identical in rats and humans, leaving the way open for a new slimming drug.

"It really won't be very difficult for the pharmaceutical companies to produce a GLP-1 lookalike that stops the body from over-eating," said Professor Bloom. The new drug would specifically block over-consumption - it would not prevent people maintaining their

normal body weight. "You could make it specific in increasing satiety, so that after eating one steamed pudding you'd be able to say: 'That's enough now'."

The new drug would not be capable of abuse by anorexics or people with similar disorders. "It would be quite dangerous to develop a drug that knocked out appetite entirely," Professor Bloom said.

But over-eating is more complex than a simple desire for calories, according to Professor

David Booth, a psychologist from Birmingham University.

"There's not one thing called hunger. It's very much more complex and involves a myriad of different sorts, moods and psychological mechanisms and circuits in the brain. There's not one button a drug could act on," said Professor Booth.

Cynics might note that there is another, easier method of fooling the body it has just consumed a large meal - it is known as eating a Chinese takeaway.

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## news

## Burst pipe claims set to reach £500m

WILL BENNETT

Britain's water companies last night promised to get supplies back to normal by the weekend but up to 100,000 people are still having to collect their water from tankers and bowlers. Insurance experts estimate that the total damage caused by burst pipes may reach £500 million.

The worst-affected area is in Northumberland where about 50,000 people in the towns of Ashington and Newbiggin, near Morpeth, have had no running water for three days.

In Scotland 12,000 people in the Strathclyde region have no water, 6,500 of them in the town of Airdrie, and the number of people in the Grampian region with no supplies increased from 8,000 to 10,000 yesterday. However, the situation around the country yesterday was a substantial improvement on Tuesday when several hundred thousand people were without water because of pipe breakages caused by the new-year thaw.

Jim Conlon, Northumbrian Water's area manager for Ashington, said yesterday that teams would be working flat out to restore supplies. He added: "We estimate it will be 24 to 36 hours before we are satisfied that we have got the majority of services restored."

John Hargreaves, Northumbrian's managing director, said that the problems had been caused by a combination of the sudden and rapid thaw, and the fact that many bursts had occurred in factories and schools closed for the holiday, which had necessitated cutting off supplies. He promised

that there would be a full review "to see if there is anything we can learn", but rejected suggestions that the crisis had anything to do with privatisation, pointing out that Scotland, where water is still publicly owned, had also been badly hit.

However, Donald Macgregor, national water-workers secretary for the GMB union laid the blame for the crisis on the privatised companies' staff cuts. He said: "The water companies have laid off so many staff that there are now only half the number of people left in many areas of the industry."

Both Northumbrian and North East Water face a huge compensation bill. Each household without water can claim £10 a day after the first 24 hours, which means that the bill for the Ashington and Newbiggin area alone is likely to be about £1 million, and the total may be twice that.

Raymond Robertson, the Scottish Office minister, said that the Government would consider financial help for local authorities in Scotland. Such assistance will not be provided in England and Wales.

In Strathclyde, services are expected to be back to normal by the weekend and supplies in Lothian should be restored within two days. Schools and colleges in Grampian, however, will not reopen on Monday after the holiday period because of damage caused to water and heating systems.

Oftwat, the water industry regulating authority in England and Wales, said yesterday that it would be consulting its regional committees to see what lessons could be learned.



Thirsty work: Ashington residents drain the last drop from a street-corner butt at the start of a third day without water. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

Staffordshire by-election: Labour dismisses Tory claims of 'indecent' visit to seat vacated by MP's death

## Prescott hits the campaign trail

JAMES CUSICK

At 8.57am yesterday the New Labour, New Britain sign was strategically lowered for the television cameras. At 8.58am the bouquet of red roses was delivered. At 8.59iced water was poured. At 9am Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, arrived and announced campaigning had not started in the South East Staffordshire by-election. No one believed him.

Just before Christmas the Conservative MP Sir David Lightowler died.

Mr Prescott arrived in Tamworth dismissing accusations by leading Conservatives that Labour were acting in a far from decent fashion by opening by-election discussions so close to Sir David's death.

Once the prop forward of the Tony Whips office, Sir David was nicknamed "The Enforcer".

The enforcer's reputation

will doubtless play its part in the coming Tory campaign. But Mr Prescott played his own role yesterday - "The Terminator", the bringer of bad news to the Tory faithful in the prosperous Midlands market town. The Tories "are now irrevocably divided" both in Parliament and in the country. "We intend to maximise the pressure on them at every possible occasion," said Mr Prescott.

With a 7,192 Tory majority the by-election should be another Labour scalp when voting takes place, expected to be in late March. However Mr Prescott was keen to emphasise his party would "in no sense be complacent".

In 1992, Sir David's constituency increased both its Tory vote and overall percentage. Labour organisers admitted yesterday: "This is going to be bloody hard work."

The sentiments were echoed

as Mr Prescott and Labour's newly NEC-endorsed candidate, local councillor Brian Jenkins, went for a stroll in the town.

In front of the town hall's statue of Sir Robert Peel, twice prime minister in the last century, a group of middle-aged



John Prescott: Promise to put pressure on Tories

Tory voters gathered and an unofficial spokesman admitted: "Yes there is dissent. Yes there is party disunity. Yes there are mistakes everywhere but the hard choice will be our party or Labour. The answer will be no to Labour."

Yet Labour control both the district and county councils. The Tories failed to win any seats in Tamworth's last borough elections in May.

For Labour to lose or even fail to win would be a disaster for Tony Blair.

In the coming campaign, Tamworth's associations with Sir Robert Peel will feature heavily. In 1834 he effectively renamed his party the Conservatives and produced the first published election address. He laid out the principles of his New Conservatism in a document distributed to the national press, now known as the Tamworth Manifesto.

With the term "Tory" discredited, the manifesto was intended to unite a divided party looking for strong leadership. John Major may know just how Sir Robert felt.

Last night local Conservatives began their choosing their own candidate, who will be trying to win a by-election for the Tories for the first time since victory in Richmond seven years ago.

In the area where Peel tried to invent "one nation" conservatism, there may yet be prayers offered seeking his advice.

Meanwhile, the battle for the general election got under way today with an advertisement by Labour challenging the Tories' claims to economic success.

JOHN RENTOUL

Political Correspondent

Left-wing MPs could leave the Labour Party to link up with Arthur Scargill's breakaway socialist party after the next election. Alan Simpson, secretary of the hard-left Campaign Group of Labour MPs, said yesterday.

He disagreed with the timing of Mr Scargill's move to set up a Socialist Labour Party in May. "Arthur is wrong that this is the defining moment," he added. "It is possible for today's Labour Party to take a path which would split the party. That would be the right of making rather than the left."

MPs would leave if three conditions were fulfilled: "The severing altogether of the trade union link, the introduction of proportional representation

and of state funding of political parties."

Advisers to Tony Blair, the Labour leader, have discussed abolition of the union block vote, while he has promised a referendum on a change to proportional representation (PR), and the party is committed to state funding of parties.

Mr Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, believes the union link would provide the issue, while PR and state funding would make a rival party viable.

Yesterday a Blair loyalist, Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypriid, urged the party to expel the National Union of Mineworkers leader, who he called a "complete megalomaniac", adding that "if he doesn't like the game that the other kids have organised, he'll take his ball away and start his own. He's always done that".

## MP warns of lure of Scargill party

## IN BRIEF

## Footballers accused of fixing matches

The footballers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, former player John Fashanu, and a Malaysian businessman, Heng Suan Lin, appeared before Southampton magistrates yesterday charged in connection with alleged match-fixing.

Mr Grobbelaar is charged with accepting £40,000 from Mr Fashanu as a reward for influencing the result of a Newcastle v Liverpool game on 21 November 1993. Newcastle won 3-0. Mr Segers is accused of accepting £19,000 from Fashanu as a reward for fixing the match between Liverpool and Wimbledon on 22 October 1994 which Liverpool won 3-0. Mr Fashanu is charged with giving the players the money, and all four defendants are accused of conspiring to fix matches.

The charges were brought under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906. The four men were bailed to appear at a committal hearing on 18 March.

## Stonehenge pair fight conviction

Two people convicted under the Criminal Justice Act for commemorating the 1985 "Battle of the Beanfield" at Stonehenge began their appeals at Salisbury County Court yesterday.

Dr Margaret Jones, a university lecturer, and Richard Lloyd, a student, were convicted in October of trespassing Assembly. The provisions of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act were designed to prevent gatherings of 20 people or more at places such as Stonehenge during the summer solstice. Dr Jones and Mr Lloyd claimed then and now that there were only 19 people present, and the court was shown video footage which appeared to support their case.

## Driver accused

A 26-year-old lorry driver was charged with causing death by dangerous driving after a collision in which three members of a family died on a Christmas outing. David Hogarth, 41, a police inspector, and his sons Matthew, 12, and Andrew, 10, of Ripley, Derbyshire, died from injuries suffered in the accident near Buxton on 22 December. The unnamed driver is on police bail and will appear before magistrates on 8 January.

## Tourist record

Britain is on target to break its annual record for the number of tourists coming from abroad, according to the Central Statistical Office. Latest figures for October 1995, show that the number of foreign tourists visiting the UK in the first 10 months of last year totalled just over 20 million - 11 per cent up on the January to October 1994 total and the annual record of 21 million set in 1991, is almost certain to fall.

## Sky chief

Stuart Probbie, controller of factual programmes at the ITV Network Centre, has been appointed chief executive of Granada Sky Broadcasting, the Sky and Granada joint venture to launch eight satellite channels this year.

## Train derailed

Up to 200 rail commuters had to walk to safety last night after their train was derailed. The train, the 6.13pm from King's Cross to Cambridge, was derailed about 100 yards outside the London station.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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## Maxwell judge gives warning

JOHN WILLCOCK

The judge in the long-running Maxwell trial told the jury yesterday at the beginning of his summing-up that one of the key questions they must answer is how far Kevin Maxwell's evidence can be believed.

Lord Justice Phillips told the Old Bailey jury, on day 117 of the trial, that all the three defendants were of good character. However Kevin had told the court about lies he told to various banks in the prelude to the collapse of the Maxwell empire in 1991. Kevin had insisted that although he had been forced by his father, Robert Maxwell, to lie to the banks, everything he told the court was true.

The judge said Kevin had reacted with indignation to suggestions from the prosecution that he had lied in the witness box. The judge said Kevin had given evidence for over 20 days.

"I doubt if there have been many criminal cases where the jury has had a better opportunity to study the demeanour of a witness."

Kevin is accused of conspiracy to defraud the Maxwell pension funds. Kevin, his brother Ian, and Larry Trachtenberg are accused on a separate count of conspiracy to defraud the funds. Both the defence and prosecution submissions were completed before Christmas and the summing-up - expected to last five days - was adjourned until yesterday to allow the jury a Christmas break.

Lord Justice Phillips defended the jury system against accusations that it was inadequate in cases of serious fraud. He said 12 ordinary men and women had faced a challenge in understanding the workings of the City. He said: "What is needed at the end of the day is common sense."

## Talks with Sinn Fein to continue

COLIN BROWN

Ministers yesterday refused to break off contacts with Sinn Fein leaders in spite of a call by the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionists to halt talks with the IRA and Sinn Fein because of the wave of killings of alleged drug dealers in Ulster.

Officials at the Northern Ireland Office said contacts with Sinn Fein were being maintained, and more meetings could be held.

John Taylor's call for meetings to be halted caused a split in the Ulster Unionists ranks after it was repudiated by Ken Maginnis, the party's security spokesman. Mr Maginnis said it would give the IRA an excuse for returning to violence.

The call was supported by Andrew Hunter, the pro-Unionist chairman of the backbench committee of Tory MPs on Northern Ireland. Mr Hunter

said there should be a "pause" until the killings had stopped.

Direct Action Against Drugs (DAAD) claimed they killed the latest victim, Ian Lyons, 31, who was shot as he sat in a car with his girlfriend outside her home at Lurgan, Co Armagh.

He died later in hospital, the seventh man to be murdered since April when the shootings first started, and the fifth in the last month. Sinn Fein's senior representatives involved in talks with the British and Irish governments have been urged to disown the campaign of bloodshed in nationalist areas.

The party insists there is no proof of IRA involvement in the latest shooting.

The Government's refusal to heed the call underlines John Major's determination not to allow the peace process to be pushed off course by his possible reliance on the Unionists to remain in power for a full term.

## Brady's legal challenge

MARIANNE MACDONALD

Media Correspondent

Ian Brady is seeking to launch the first High Court challenge of a Press Complaints Commission ruling over a Sun article headlined "Well-fare of evil child murderer".

The feature, illustrated with long-lens photographs of Brady, began: "This is the new face of Moors murderer Ian Brady - bloated by soft living in a cushy hospital. The evil child-killer feasts on a choice of menus including steak and salmon."

The article last July claimed that Brady, who was sentenced to life in 1966 for killing five chil-

dren with Myra Hindley, was "no longer the gaunt figure he used to be" and compared Ashworth hospital in Merseyside to a top hotel. "He has a five-star room with his own key, access to a swimming pool, multi-gym, library, tennis courts and a football pitch," it added.

Charles Kaye, chief executive of the Special Hospitals Service Authority which runs Ashworth, immediately sought permission from Brady to complain to the commission over the article. He believed the article flouted its codes on privacy, particularly regarding long-lens pictures.

However, the managing editor of the Sun, William New-

man, defended the paper in a letter which argued: "Public interest demands that we should continue to monitor the progress of such evil people through our prison and secure hospital establishments."

The PCC upheld the Sun in a ruling which Mr Kaye says mirrors the tabloid's own defence. "As well as being a patient at Ashworth, Ian Brady is also a notorious child murderer - a matter in itself which justifies scrutiny of him in the public interest." The adjudication has triggered Brady's legally-aided High Court challenge to the Commission - the first in its five-year history.

## Privatisation windfall for Railtrack workers

FROM PAGE ONE

The Labour Party's transport spokesman, Brian Wilson, said he would secure support from MPs of all parties to oppose the sale. "Nobody should be in any doubt about Labour's commitment to retaining the railway infrastructure in public ownership and with full public accountability."

"Anyone who invests in Railtrack, in the death days of this Government, will be under no illusions about Labour's position. It is a high-risk prospectus and there are certainly going

to be no rich pickings for those who get involved."

"There is no future for investors in supporting the utterly unwanted sale of Railtrack."

SBC Warburg, financial adviser to the Department of Transport, would reveal nothing about Railtrack's prospective value or price. Railtrack Group Plc, as it will be known, owns 23,000 miles of track, 2,500 passenger stations, 1,000 tunnels, and 90,000 bridges.

Three rail-equipment leasing companies have already been sold and three freight companies are still up for sale.

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 Typical example assumes a variable rate of 2.14% on a £100,000 repayment mortgage over 25 years (180 months) on a purchase price of £120,000. 300 monthly payments of £1,074.81 net of NH&AS at 15% on 2.14% after a 5.20% + 0.25% + 0.25% discount. APL is based on the discounted rate applying for the term of the mortgage. In practice after the discounted rate period the Society's normal variable interest rate will apply. Total Amount Payable (TAP) £33,521. Solicitors' mortgage costs £100 including VAT (includes same solicitor fees for both the Society and the borrower's solicitor). For £100 Mortgage solicitors to assess and security. Available to those aged 18 and over only. For full terms and conditions, please refer to the relevant literature. Please note for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements your call will be recorded. Written quotations available on request from Nationwide Building Society, FREEPOST, Kingsbridge Road, Princes Street, Swindon SN4 1ND. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Creditors Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice.



The winning formula: Irish syndicate reveal the painstaking method for beating the odds

## How to make a killing on the lottery

REBECCA FOWLER

It is perhaps not the easiest way to make a million, but for Stefan Klincewicz, 45, a half-Polish accountant, it worked. His 28-strong syndicate purchased the winning ticket for the £2.2m jackpot in the Irish lottery four years ago in a dramatic sting.

Mr Klincewicz devised the plot in a Dublin pub in 1990 in anticipation of a rollover jackpot, when the prize swells to record levels. As soon as it came up, his team of ticket buyers tore across Ireland.

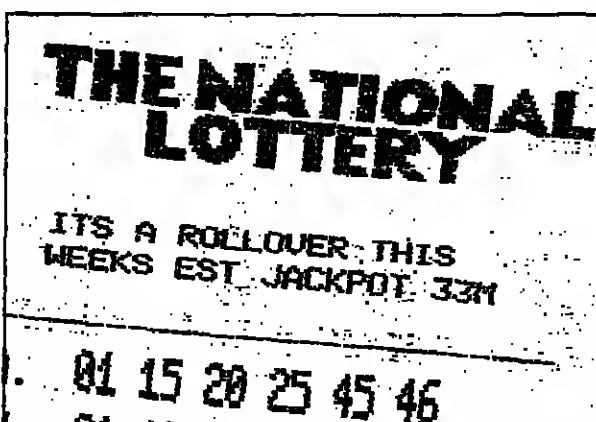
Although Irish lottery chiefs recognised that sales had increased dramatically, and started to shut down terminals the day before the draw, the syndicate bought up 80 per cent of the total 1.94 million ticket number combinations.

Mr Klincewicz, who knows Stefan Mandel, head of the Australian syndicate allegedly considering a sting on the British lottery this week, said yesterday that he would not even attempt such an operation on this week's £40m jackpot.

"It's incredibly risky. The problem from a statistical point of view is that there should be seven, eight or nine winners in Saturday night's draw," he said.

The United Kingdom lottery has been designed to stop this sort of thing going on, so that even if you buy all the tickets, the risk is still enormous. Whereas with the Irish lottery, there was also a £100 prize for matching four numbers which meant investors were always going to get a 75 per cent return.

After his coup, Mr Klincewicz laid out the game-plan for



the perfect lottery plot. First, the Irish syndicate raised the money to cover the tickets, and passed it on to a firm of accountants to bank. It then set up offices in a central location to

co-ordinate the ticket-buying. Pay-slips were collected in batches from shops over a period of a week in an attempt to prevent a sudden influx. They were filled out at headquarters

and the syndicate started recruiting teams of ticket-buyers. "You don't advertise for people. You just get them by word of mouth," Mr Klincewicz said.

A selection of hotel rooms were then booked across the country, and the money for the tickets put into banks nearby. The job of getting tickets inputted then began and the syndicate lay bets of nearly £900,000 in two days before it was stopped by officials. "You choose machines where you don't get in the way of other people who are buying tickets," Mr Klincewicz said.

The lottery organisers became suspicious when they noticed shops normally selling less than £1,000 worth of tickets daily suddenly recording sales of £15,000 in a morning. Once the tickets were pur-

chased they were taken back to the headquarters and kept in secure storage. "When you've got the ticket, you just sit back and enjoy the show," Mr Klincewicz said. But the highest risk for any syndicate, is whether regular players will also have come up with the winning combination through luck.

Although Mr Klincewicz's syndicate - which included a harrister, business executives and a roof contractor - had the winning ticket, it was still forced to share it with another winner, leaving it with £568,682, although it scooped another £400,000 from mopping up secondary prizes.

Mr Klincewicz has subsequently set up a series of other syndicates from his parent company, that bears the logo "A chance to Dream".

## 'Acne' drug may relieve Gulf War sickness

JOHN MCKIE

In his time with the 101st US Airborne Division, Sergeant Tom Hare used to go on 25-mile road marches with a rucksack on his back. Then in September 1990, he went to the Gulf War. On returning in April 1991, Sgt Hare was unable to pick up his fifteen-pound baby daughter.

Sgt Hare, now 34, was in a wheelchair, suffered blackouts, and had to sleep standing up for four years due to what he believes was the condition known as Gulf War Syndrome (GWS), which manifests many symptoms including chronic fatigue, sore arms, memory loss and blurred eyesight. No cure has been found for the disorder which has affected at least 4,000 British Gulf War veterans and more thousands of US.

Thousands of US soldiers now up and walking and having an almost full recovery at that, he believes, is due to the antibiotic doxycycline, prescribed to him by Californian microbiologist Dr Howard Uricz. In a presentation to scientists in London yesterday, the doctor said: "This antibiotic is doing a very good job of stopping the progression of diseases caused by Gulf War Syndrome."

Doxycycline was prescribed to Sgt Hare and his wife Christine, a former nurse in the Gulf who also suffered from the syndrome. Both "knew the drug has absorbed the 15th of the pain they had suffered for three years. They had originally been told by a hospital doctor that the problem was to "pull in our mind".

Mr Hare said: "As long as I took the doxycycline, I'm fine. It's a common antibiotic and no it's not the stuff doctors use to give kids acne."

British doctors, said Dr Uricz, were reluctant to use it because it takes six to eight weeks to take effect. But they agreed: "It would be readily available, for about £5 a week. That does no harm."

One British sufferer is sceptical about doxycycline's prospects of success. Michael Malpas, who served on the ammunition ship *Sir Tristram* from 1989, suffered from heightened anxiety, poor eyesight, and has lost his return from the service. "Given that every body's genetic make-up is different, the antibiotic is going to affect everybody differently."

The US Senate has also urged caution, with a spokesman warning that many of the syndrome's viruses may be immune to the antibiotic.

A US government body, the Centers for Disease Control, only acknowledged the seriousness of the problem last year, while in Britain the Ministry of Defence refuses to accept Gulf War Syndrome.



## Circus in pole position at Albert Hall



For the high jump: Performers atop special long poles during a rehearsal for the Cirque Du Soleil's latest production, *Salimbanco*, due to open at London's Royal Albert Hall tomorrow. The show is designed to bring traditional circus skills together with hi-tech visual effects and rock music. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

## Boy, 11, dies after rottweiler attack

An 11-year-old boy savaged two weeks ago by a pair of rottweiler dogs died yesterday of his injuries.

David Kearney, from Darwen, Lancashire, received horrific wounds in the attack. He was said to be so badly mutilated that his mother did not recognise him.

Doctors at Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Manchester, where he died, had to amputate his leg just above the knee after gangrene set in last week. He had since suffered kidney failure and a heart attack and was being kept alive on ventilator.

David was attacked after climbing into a yard, where owner Kevin Turner kept the rottweilers, to retrieve a football. He was bending down to pick up some money that had fallen from his pocket when the dogs attacked.

His sister Amanda, 14, said afterwards: "He stayed to pick it up and one of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it but it went for him."

The dogs were destroyed after the attack. Police said initially that no action was

expected to be taken against Mr Turner, but a file would be submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service.

David's parents, who spent Christmas at his bedside, were said to be distraught. A friend of the family said: "They knew how badly he was injured but they had been hoping he would pull through. Everyone is terribly upset."

The Rev Dick Cartmell, who baptised David, and comforted his parents at the hospital, said: "Kevin and Margaret were very distressed as they realised their son was dying. I was not there at the very end. His parents were very brave and wanted to be alone with him as he died."

He received the Last Rites from the hospital chaplain.

Fund-raising events to help comfort the family were being arranged by staff and customers at a local pub, the Railway Hotel, Landford, Michael McCarron, said: "Everyone felt for the lad and the regulars all wanted to do something to help."

"We will carry on raising money to help the family in any way we can."

## Women driving in fear of attack

Women are so scared of being attacked in their cars that some would consider carrying knives, guns and crowbars to protect themselves, according to a survey published yesterday.

Nearly three in five women fear being attacked and almost 80 per cent said they could foresee a time when they might consider carrying personal protection.

The survey, conducted for the motor leasing and retailing group, Cowie, revealed that while 14 per cent would consider carrying a crowbar or a blunt instrument, 3 per cent said they would think about carrying a knife and 1 per cent a gun.

Most preferred to think about having a mobile phone or a personal alarm while almost half would opt for a spray which could be squirted in the face of an attacker.

Asked if they would actually use any of these items, 92 per cent of the women replied: "Yes, if necessary."

In addition to women's perceived need to carry weapons, the survey found that more

than one in four said they were not prepared to drive alone at night on motorways or country roads.

If they broke down on a motorway at night, 50 per cent would stay locked in their cars on the hard shoulder despite the dangers. Most women said they were unhappy with the frequency of emergency telephones on motorways.

Two in five said they did not feel safe while using a multi-storey car park and about the same number said they only felt secure during the day.

"Women feel vulnerable on our roads, especially at night," said Julie Jobling of Cowie.

"With many more women driving now, more should be done to co-ordinate the safety message to them," she added. "Women should not feel the need to carry a weapon in order to feel safe when driving - credible advice and more police patrols on motorways should be made available."

The survey also found that almost 60 per cent of women felt less secure on public transport than in their car.

## Ecstasy teenager to make full recovery

IAN MACKINNON

A teenager who fell into a coma for more than 24 hours after taking an ecstasy tablet at a New Year's Eve party was recovering last night to the relief of her anguished parents who maintained a two-day vigil by her hospital bed.

In a grim parallel with the Leah Betts tragedy, Helen Cousins, 19, collapsed after taking the pill and drinking as much as seven litres of water when she started to feel ill.

As police in Cambridgeshire began the task of tracking down the dealer who sold the tablet, doctors said they believed she had lapsed into the coma because the drug had hampered her kidneys' ability to deal with the water.

But despite the fits she suffered while in the coma, doctors at Peterborough District Hospital were optimistic yesterday that she would make a full recovery after she was moved from the intensive care unit.

Leaving the hospital yesterday, her father Trevor, 47, told of the shock he and his wife, Janet, 51, felt at what had happened, mixed with relief that their ordeal appeared to be over. "She is getting better and we are incredibly relieved," he said. "We cannot put it into words. It has been absolutely horrendous... a nightmare. But hopefully the worst is over."

The outcome is a stark contrast to that of Leah Betts, who died after lapsing into a coma when she took one of the tablets at her 18th birthday party. It was thought that her death, considered one of perhaps 50 related to the drug, had been the result of a contaminated tablet. But doctors subsequently felt it had been the result of drinking too much water to combat dehydration.

Her parents - who released shocking pictures of her on a life-support system to discourage others and took part in the making of an educational video entitled *Sorted* - yesterday attacked those who sold the drug to Miss Cousins.

She took the drug while celebrating the New Year at Winters nightclub, in Peterborough, and was discovered ill by friends who took her to a flat. But when her condition continued to deteriorate they called an ambulance. She was taken to hospital where she slipped into a coma shortly after arrival.

Dr Michael Dronfield, who is treating Miss Cousins, a sales assistant, said she had probably put her life in danger by drinking so much water, causing the sodium level in her blood to drop and induce the deep coma.

"It's not widely known that there is evidence that one of the problems ecstasy can cause is that it affects the kidneys' ability to get rid of water," he said.



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# WORLD PROSPERITY LEAGUE

14	Netherlands
15	Australia
16	Hong Kong
17	Singapore
18	United Kingdom
19	Sweden
20	New Zealand

The Times, 1st November 1995

WHICH COUNTRY...

HAS SLUMPED FROM 13TH TO 18TH IN THE  
WORLD PROSPERITY LEAGUE?

OUR COUNTRY.

On 1st November 1995 the World Prosperity League showed how, under the Conservatives, Britain has fallen from 13th to 18th place. Two months, one Commons defeat and one defection later, isn't it time John Major started to answer the real questions about what is happening to our country under the Conservatives?

1. Why has our country fallen from 13th to 18th place?
2. Why is our country's share of world trade now at its lowest this century?
3. Why has our country fallen to 21st in the International League for Investment?
4. Why is our country now 35th in the World Education League and, of the major European economies, why do we have the smallest percentage of young people in full time education?
5. Why do 1 in 5 of our country's working age households have no-one earning a wage, and why does our country have a million fewer people in work than when John Major became Prime Minister?
6. Why are 1 in 3 children in our country in poverty, compared with 1 in 10 in 1979?
7. Why has our country, under the Tories, had the biggest tax rise in peacetime history?
8. Why are typical families in our country paying £600 more in taxes than in 1992, when John Major promised taxes would fall year on year?
9. Why have more homes in our country been repossessed under the Conservatives, and why are more people suffering from negative equity, than ever before?
10. Why, after 16 years of Conservative government, is our country so divided?

Labour



10/11/95



# Time to give good vibes back to the land, says Glastonbury farmer



1: Festival-goers in front of the famous pyramid stage at Glastonbury (left). Each event became bigger than the last, culminating in last year's record 120,000-strong audience at the Worthy Farm site (right)

Interests of good farming practice. "We're having a fallow year," he explained yesterday. "Missing a festival every three or four years - the last times were 1991, 1988 and 1982 - has always been Glastonbury practice." Others were dubious about his explanation, as Mr Eavis was recently selected as the Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Wells, a traditionally true-blue seat.

"One wonders if there has been some involvement by the Labour Party to say 'give it a rest this year in case there's an election'," Peter Gold, the Liberal Democrats' prospective parliamentary candidate said. Mr Eavis was shocked by the suggestion. "The festival's too important to muck around with. We see this as a break to stimulate everyone to go for it the following year."

"We've all got proper jobs. Glastonbury's run by doctors, dentists, lawyers, teachers and farmers, but they do it because they love it. It's nothing to do with politics. Most serious punters don't think there'll be an election until 1997 anyway." Either way, the festival's absence will be a blow for thousands who yearn - often behind their conventional lifestyles - to cast off convention and chill out in the country amid dirt, dope and loud music.

And there are more and more of them. In the last 25 years, the festival has grown from 1,500 people watching Marc Bolan at sunset (he arrived in a velvet-covered car and performed on a stage tied to an apple tree) to its present, awesome magnitude. It attracted 120,000 people last year and made a turnover of almost £5m.

Meanwhile, the bands have come and gone, from Elvis Costello and Van Morrison to Oasis, Supergrass and Pulp, and the festival has grown up. From a cheap weekend run by a rock-mad farmer who lost £1,500 for the privilege, it is now a big business, as likely to attract corporate hospitality as New Age travellers.

In the early days, as devotees will attest, the profit motive was non-existent. Entrance was free, along with milk from the farm, lavatories were communal cesspits and free spirits danced naked in the mud. Those were the days when drugs were sold openly and, even when an entrance fee was charged, it was possible to nip under a fence. Now a mini-city springs up on the rutted fields, making fortunes for the stallholders and assorted entrepreneurs.

## 'Disillusion' among mobile phone users

It is where many believe the future of the business lies. Last month, Vodafone announced a new range of prices which provides billing on the basis of seconds and offers a certain amount of "free" call time depending on the monthly fee. One City analyst said that the packages make Vodafone about as cheap as Orange for some types of user, but he added that the larger company still has some way to go to close the gap. On Tuesday, Vodafone and Cellnet revealed that the number of new subscribers in December was sharply down on the previous festive period when they featured strongly on Christmas present lists. The implication is that people are now much more conscious of the on-going cost of using the telephones, the initial price of which can be extremely low. Sir Gerald Wheat, chief executive of Vodafone, said that in spite of the downturn at the end of 1995, the year as a whole was one of "exceptional" growth in every other month. Comparisons between prices on the different networks are extremely difficult, because of the confusing plethora of packages of subscriptions and call charges from each operator. Vodafone estimates that the average spent by each of its customers is still about £470 a year, in spite of the introduction of lower-cost deals for consumers. Cellnet's annual expenditure per customer ranges from £240 on consumer packages to £700 for higher paying executives. The Consumers' Association believes that in the industry as a whole, it is almost impossible to spend less than £200, even when customers do not make any calls.

## Drugs sold 'without adequate warning'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The Consumers' Association is to oppose any further switches of drugs from prescription-only medicines to over-the-counter sales in pharmacies after "alarming" evidence that pharmacists are failing to warn of potential drug-interactions, or advise patients who should consult a doctor to go to one. In the past three years, some 30 powerful drugs which used to be available only on prescription have been switched to pharmacy sale. The move is aimed at cutting both the drugs bill and the need for GP visits, while providing more convenience and choice for patients. Highly effective drugs that have changed status include

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## news

# Selection unlikely for majority of schools



Class issue: Reading Girls' School began selecting pupils because it wanted to get a 'fairer share of bright girls'

Photograph: John Lawrence

## Choice on merit keeps comprehensive spirit

Reading Girls' School decided three years ago to apply to select some of its pupils so that it would remain a true comprehensive, writes Judith Judd.

The school opted out of local authority control in 1990 so that it could remain single sex. Clare Hallows, the head, said: "We applied to the Secretary of State for Education to select one-third of our pupils because we felt that we were not getting our fair share of bright girls. Our intake was not truly comprehensive."

The school of 450 girls had been undersubscribed, but numbers have risen since the move to become partly selective. Pupils are selected by an entrance exam in November.

Mrs Hallows said interviews might be introduced if the school became oversubscribed. "Interviews may be a good way for a parent to ensure that a school is the best place for their child. If I were a parent I should like to feel that I was choosing a school, as well as the school choosing the child."

She said there was no question of the school selecting a higher proportion of its pupils than it did at the moment even if the Government changed the rules. "We want to remain a comprehensive school."

Asked about the Government's plans to make it easier for opted out schools to go selective she said no obstacles had been put in her school's way.

## Rising rates of pay the lure for graduates

WENDY BERLINER

Gloomy tales of graduate unemployment in recent years do not appear to be deterring people from applying to university, according to official figures, due to be released later this month, which show demand for places is still buoyant.

At the pre-Christmas closing date for applications to enter university this autumn, 342,000 people had applied, compared with 347,000 at the same time last year - a 1.5 per cent annual fall.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service will spend the rest of the month analysing the figures, but one area that is thought to have experienced a fall in demand is overseas applications.

According to figures released today, starting salaries for new graduates are beginning to increase faster than the rise in average earnings - and salaries of graduates employed for longer periods show even bigger rises.

Salaries for new graduates are now not far below the earnings average for the workforce as a whole, with a median of £14,362 and examples as high as £22,000 reported from the banking and finance sector.

## Call to end A-levels

A-level exams should be abolished because they are irrelevant, a former top civil servant said yesterday, writes Judith Judd.

Sir Geoffrey Holland, permanent secretary at the Department for Education until two years ago and now Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University, said A-levels should be replaced by a single qualification to end a divide between vocational and academic courses.

His speech, to the North of England education conference, comes as Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is reviewing qualifications for 16-19-year-olds.

Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief exams adviser, whose report will be published in March, is expected to recommend ways of bridging the gap between academic and vocational courses but to stop short of abolishing A-levels.

Sir Geoffrey outlined a list of reforms to help improve its educational performance. "In general, 13-year-olds in English schools lag two years behind continental equivalents and never catch up," he said, advocating a move away from an age-related system, with pupils taking exams at 16 and 18. Exams should be taken when people were ready to take them.

## Local authorities will remain in charge of admissions policies, reports Judith Judd

The Prime Minister wants us to believe he is about to give academic selection its biggest boost since his party came to power in 1979. Details will be released in a consultation paper to be published next week.

Bring back grammar schools has been the cry of the Conservative right ever since Margaret Thatcher repented over closing so many.

In a speech last September John Major aimed to mark out Conservative education policies from those of Labour, which opposes the selection of pupils by ability, by promising the heads of grant-maintained schools much more freedom to pick their pupils and to maintain the "ethos" of their schools.

The Government circular which says schools should avoid interviewing pupils would be revised, he said, so that heads and governors of popular schools would have more say in deciding who they admitted.

Labour and the local authorities accused the Government of opening the door to social selection. "Maintaining a school's ethos," they said, was just another way of letting oversubscribed schools ensure that they confined their intake to nice middle-class pupils.

So is the return of the grammar school at hand? It is not. As the Department for Education

and Employment said yesterday: "There is no question of selection returning to all schools."

Outside 1,100 grant-maintained schools, the Prime Minister's proposals will have little effect. The 23,000 or so schools which remain with local authorities will have only slightly more opportunity to select pupils than they do now.

Local authority schools are allowed by law to select 10 per cent of their pupils for special aptitude in sport, drama, music, technology or modern languages. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said last November that there would be a small increase in these schools to 15 per cent.

But local authorities will remain firmly in control of the admissions policies of their schools. These will have no more opportunity than they do at present to select pupils whether by entrance exam or interview. As one Whitehall source said: "We are moving the goal posts slightly, not digging up the pitch."

Even for grant-maintained schools, the change will be comparatively small. They may be able to become selective without having to get the permission of the Secretary of State.

A number have already applied for and obtained that permission. The process is not

difficult, make it easier for church grant-maintained schools to interview would be unlikely to have much effect.

The circular barriers views to determine ability which intended to reduce catchment areas, discontinue of it.

As a result, London, Bristol, and other schools, as the

The interview in many selective schools like to

The clear choice that La

admissions

Most parents are less concerned about the return of grammar schools than about the difficulty of getting their child into the school of their choice.

The new consultation will do nothing to change

Leading article, p. 6

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John Lawrence



# No gimmicks, but tills ring up £16,000 a minute

GLENDIA COOPER

The Harrods sale opened yesterday to the sound of pipers serenading French film star Gerard Depardieu and the far sweeter sound of tills ringing up more than £5m.

But while some complained about the absence of real bargains, their actions belied their words as they parted with a quarter of a million pounds in the first half-hour. By noon, the tills were taking £16,000 per minute and the store said turnover was up 8 per cent on last year's sales.

The china and glass department did particularly well, with over £100,000 of china sold by lunchtime and the linen department was also said to have had a good day.

Nearly 2,000 people were queuing outside by 9am but the first to arrive had been Pip Watkins, 20, and Richard Lloyd, 22, Cardiff University students who arrived at midnight to win a £5 bet.

After nine hours of playing snap, reading books and having an argument they suddenly found themselves the centre of attention.

Inside the store, the selling was steady, with the only stampedes occurring as journalists tried to follow Depardieu, who opened the sale, down to the Wine Department where Harrods is exclusively selling the actor's own Chateau de Tigne Anjou Blanc (£7.95).

The famous store has been such a "gimmick" as a television for £10 or a fur coat



Right on queue: A bargain-hunter waits outside the Knightsbridge store before opening time at 9am yesterday

Photograph: Brian Harris

for £50 several years ago. "It was more of a pain than anything else," said a Harrods spokesman. "We found it was counter-productive because 50 people would converge on the same item and we decided

it was better to give more people the chance of getting the same products." But Betheny Bernard, from Buckinghamshire, was disappointed at the lack of traditional bargains.

"To be honest," said Ms Bernard, "they are only offering 30 to 40 per cent off. Other stores are offering 50 per cent."

But Erica Fiber of Hendon, who has attended the first day of the sales religiously for the past ten years, was content with her bargain a £160 Yarell jacket that had originally cost £320. "You can get cheaper stuff here than you do in out-of-town shops."

But for those still looking for a real bargain, at least one remains. A diamond and yellow sapphire bracelet, once owned by Eva Peron (reduced from £150,000 to £75,000) was still waiting to be snapped up.

## Stress in the workplace: How families help shoulder burden

# Wives 'hit harder than husbands by redundancy'

BARRIE CLEMENT

The wives of senior executives who are made redundant with substantial severance payments are under more strain than their husbands, a British Psychological Society conference was told yesterday.

Anna Johnson, of Chester College, said all the redundant men believed they were supported by their partners, but only about one in 10 wives thought their husbands were a source of emotional support.

Where the relationship was "rigid, traditional and authoritarian" and the woman was unhappy with the status quo, then the loss of a partner's job could be "highly stressful".

"Families tend to operate in the best interests of the man, but it puts a lot of strain on the woman," Ms Johnson reported in a paper to the society's annual occupational psychology conference in Eastbourne.

She interviewed 26 couples where the male had earned an average £53,000 a year and had received a pay-off of £95,000. One of the reasons why the male partner was not under unbearable strain was that in each case he had the benefit of an "outplacement" counsellor who was commissioned to help him until he found employment.

The study found that women who were employed were under the greatest strain. They felt the need to combine the role of breadwinner with that of "supporter". They also felt that they

were doing neither particularly well. Employed women were conscious that their income was not sufficient to meet their families' needs and did not feel protected by their husbands' severance payment.

Ms Johnson, who wrote the paper with Paul Jackson, of Sheffield University, said the traditional management career had been transformed during the 1990s. The 1980s had seen a "blue-collar recession", but the 1990s had brought the era of the "dumpling" - downwardly mobile professional.

The slow but steady economic growth that initially promised a way out of the recession, had not been matched by a growth in jobs, the authors said. Previously immune white-collar workers were losing their jobs and finding it increasingly difficult to replace them.

The researchers argued that while studies had concentrated on the plight of those made redundant, it was also necessary to take into account the impact on families. Outplacement consultants could do much to reduce the strain.

Research had shown that families responded to a period of unemployment by two methods: "assimilation" and "accommodation". Under the assimilation response, families continued with existing relationships because unemployment was viewed as temporary.

Where a family accommodated the fact that the male breadwinner was out of work, he took on greater responsibility for

## 'Blame culture' that stifles the creative impulse

Some mistakes are "stupid" and others "intelligent" according to an occupational psychology firm, writes Barrie Clement.

Wearing a black bra under a white blouse, or spelling rabbit with three "Bs" are just plain daft, but we can learn from other types of error, according to the Oxford-based consultants Pearn Kandola.

Based on an analysis of a series of articles in the *Independent on Sunday*, with the theme "My biggest mistake", psychologists Michael Pearn, Chris Mulrooney and Tim Payne concluded that it was time organisations found a more positive way of dealing with mistakes.

Referring to them as "failures, bores, slip-ups and disasters" was not helpful, and reprimanding employees often meant that creativity was stifled.

Fear of committing errors at work discouraged experimentation and helped to produce a "blame culture". But mistakes could constitute "powerful and unique learning opportunities", according to a paper presented by the consultants to the annual occupational psychology conference of the British Psychological Society.

One "intelligent" mistake, revealed in the *Independent on Sunday*, took place in 1983 when businessman Peter Webber turned down an opportunity to invest in the Chicago Rib Shack chain of restaurants. Within six months the Shacks were catering for 8,000 customers a week at £12-a-head, and by 1987 were making a profit of more than £1m a year. Mr Webber says he is highly unlikely to make a similar mistake again.

Gerald Ratner, the jeweller, conceded he was wrong to expand into the United States. He wrote the piece before he famously conceded that his chain of shops sold "crap" - arguably one of the seminal errors committed by a businessman.

The psychologists said that "intelligent" mistakes can be made through a lack of clear goals, information overload, making assumptions, and concentrating on part of the information. People also slip up if they take decisions under stress, or fail to monitor situations. All of which, the consultants say, are

Genetically altered salmon which grow 10 times faster than normal are being created by scientists in Scotland. It was reported yesterday. The scientists are injecting 10,000 salmon eggs at a hatchery on Loch Fyne with genes from another fish to accelerate their growth.

The Scottish fish-farming industry hopes the salmon will become money-spinning giants, according to a report in *New Scientist* magazine.

Conservationists fear that if the fish escape, they could endanger wild salmon in the North Atlantic.

The growth genes were discovered accidentally by scientists at the Memorial University of Newfoundland when they were trying to produce salmon which can tolerate cold winters.

They were experimenting with a so-called "anti-freeze" gene which lowers the freezing point of the fish's blood. In salmon the gene had the unexpected effect of putting a

growth hormone which is normally kept in check into overdrive.

Only some salmon were affected. But those that were grew 10 times faster than normal. Now Otter Ferry Salmon, a company on Loch Fyne which produces eggs for the fish farming industry, has bought the technique and the services of the scientists to test the commercial potential.

They were experimenting with a so-called "anti-freeze" gene which lowers the freezing point of the fish's blood. In salmon the gene had the unexpected effect of putting a

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War papers: Secret memos reveal how bitter memories of Dunkirk influenced Churchill's decision not to help Leopold III return from exile



King Leopold of Belgium: Branded a coward for his neutralist stance

## Allies' dilemma over 'cowardice' of Belgian king

JOHN CROSSLAND

Bitter memories of the débâcle of May 1940 when King Leopold III's surrender of the Belgian army jeopardised the Dunkirk evacuation and branded him a coward, influenced Winston Churchill's decision to refuse to help the king to return to his country after his release from German captivity.

In a personal minute he went so far as to tell the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden: "I agree that our influence in so far as it can be properly exerted should be against the return of the Belgian king."

Churchill's and Eden's contempt for the king's neutralist stance and capitulation, in stark contrast to his father, King Albert's stand in 1914, is vented in startling language in secret memoranda from the closing months of the war, which emerged yesterday in a release of the 50-year state papers at the Public Record Office in Kew, south-west London.

The British government faced a dilemma with the impending release of Leopold and his family, including his son and heir, Baudouin, who had been taken from house arrest in their palace at Laeken near Brussels on 7 June 1944, and flown, as hostages, to the security of a castle near Heidelberg. Churchill had to decide whether to help a man who had

surrendered unconditionally – opening a vital flank through which the German army flooded up to the Dunkirk bridgehead – to return to a country which his behaviour, including a visit to Hitler at Berchtesgaden, had left bitterly divided, or whether it was more politic to steer clear of this minefield in newly liberated Europe. He decided on the latter.

The Prime Minister received a personal telegram from General Eisenhower on 9 June 1945, stating: "Continued uncertainty as to the future of the Belgian king appears a possible cause of military embarrassment, particularly if he asks to return to Belgium."

A week later Churchill signed a personal telegram which was sent by the Foreign Office to Sir H Knatchbull-Hugessen, British ambassador in Brussels. The telegram said: "The essential thing is that if the king returns to Belgium he should not arrive in the country in a Shaer [Allied military command] vehicle or aircraft, or be escorted or accompanied by any Allied officers or personnel. His journey and arrival should be a purely Belgian affair – signed WSC."

Churchill's feelings towards the king were influenced by a secret memo which Leopold had smuggled out of Laeken before his deportation to Germany, marked for King George

VI and which finally arrived in Britain via Field Marshall Montgomery's private pouch. Intended as a statement of Leopold's aims for Belgium after his return, it angered both the British and the Belgians, for its total lack of regret, or personal accountability, for the events of May 1940.

Churchill wrote to Eden in October 1944: "I confide this particular king to your care and that of the Foreign Office. In the days of the Spanish Inquisition the Holy Office, in handing over any persons they had examined to the Secular arm, used always to recommend that they should be treated with all possible tenderness and that above all there should be no effusion of blood. They were invariably burnt alive."

"I agree with you about the poor showing which King Leopold made before the war and the ingratitude with which he treated the British and French who had left a million graves in his country. He was not the only one in Belgium who fell into this error."

The upshot was that Leopold retired to Switzerland. On 12 March 1950, a popular referendum resulted in 57.7 per cent in favour of his return and he came back to Belgium on 22 July 1950. He devolved his constitutional powers on to Baudouin, finally abdicating formally on 16 July 1951.



Winston Churchill: Refused to help Belgian king Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

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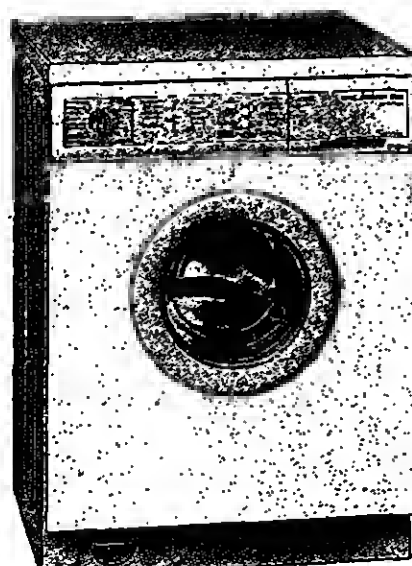


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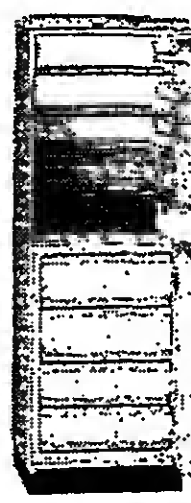
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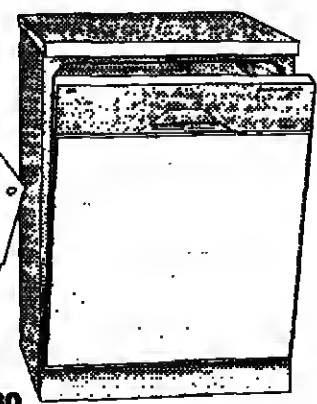
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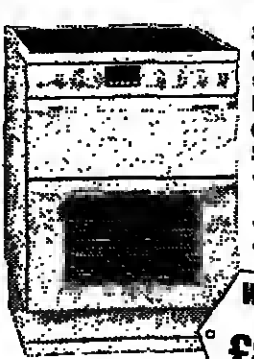
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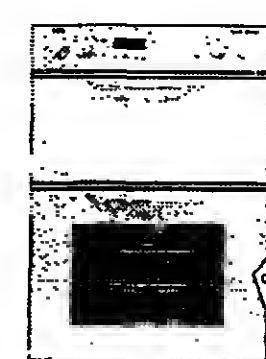
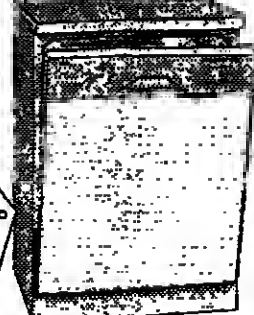


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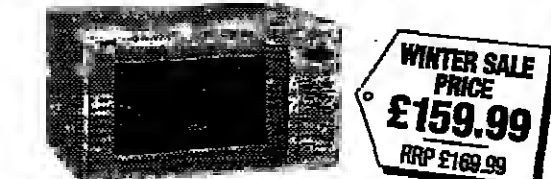
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## Government planned to deport Mosley

A startling revelation from the 50-year-old papers is that Churchill's government planned to deport Sir Oswald Mosley and his wife after their arrest under the 1940 Special Powers Regulations for securing potential traitors, writes John Crossland.

Sir Oswald was arrested at his London home on 25 May 1940, his British Union of Fascists was dissolved and, together with many of his supporters, he was placed in Brixton prison.

An anonymous security memorandum dated 10 July 1940 told the prime minister: "Lord Swinton and his executive [of the Special Warfare Executive] are very anxious if possible to deport overseas certain leaders of the British Union of Fascists, including Mosley and his wife."

"The chief reason is that it has come to their certain knowledge that Mosley and these leaders fear deportation to quite an inexpressible degree, unless they believe there to be some plot on hand to liberate them from jail for the purpose of starting serious trouble."

"At present 400 of these fascist organisers are held together in two jails where the warders and police are understood to be unarmed. It has already been represented to the Home Office that this seems an undue risk to be run. These people are just nasty gangsters who will stick at nothing and who, if they were



Mosley: 'Nasty gangster'

arrested by gangster methods, would doubtless be rounded up in due course. They might do a great deal of damage and would certainly cause a grave scandal in the meantime."

"It is hoped that the War Office will shortly arrange to take these persons over and keep them under strong military armed care. Even so, it would be better to remove them from the country, especially as this is clearly the last thing they want to happen."

"The trouble is that the law of the land as it stands prohibits the forcible deportation of any British subject. The Home Office have been invited to examine the legal position and put forward a recommendation for sufficient alteration of the law to permit the deportation of Mosley and company ..."

## DAILY POEM

### The Wedding Guest's Story

By Kate Clancy

*Shortly after ditching me, a matter of weeks, in point of fact, she bought a remarkable backless dress and got hitched to an ex-army chap who climbs up rocks on Sundays: not the sort,*

*that chap, if I might explain, to stop for stragglers or to soak up sun. He'd strike for the top in skin tight kit, lycra shorts and pick, straining straps around the crotch. In spite of which,*

*I took the half-meant invite straight, sat tight throughout, let that dress flash a foot of flesh to the hushed cathedral, and in my mind I slowly climbed the low, secret steps of her spine,*

*swung for a while on my rope in the tuck of her waist, scrambled sweating, swearing, over the slopes of her shoulder blades, to slump on the summit, weak, sobbing with loss.*

Kate Clancy was born in Glasgow in 1965. She was educated in Edinburgh and Oxford and now lives in East London where she works as a schoolteacher. The recipient of a Gregory Award in 1994, her work appeared last year in *Avril New Poets 2*, and a first collection, *Slattern* (Chatto, £6.99), from which this poem is taken, is published today. Wry, bold and witty, Clancy's verse is rooted in the vernacular: men and boys; clothes, shoes and hats; love, loss, confusion; most cleverly, a pungent and sensuous treatment of the smells of life.

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Handwritten signature: John Crossland



Help for the homeless: Russian capital plans shelters for some of the thousands who sleep rough in sub-zero temperatures

## Moscow's legion of despair detects a glimmer of hope

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Threatened by tuberculosis, low temperatures and an assortment of other nasty conditions, Russia's homeless have begun the New Year with a small glimmer of hope – the announcement that moves are finally planned in Moscow to provide roofs over their heads.

The city authorities say they will open 10 shelters this year for the growing army of people living on the streets, including some who lost their homes and jobs in the slump following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The initiative sounds like a drop in the ocean until it is compared with present arrangements: the entire metropolis has one government-run hostel for the homeless, with room for 24 people. Some 250,000 people hunk down every night in stations, doorways, heating vents, or anywhere else that affords shelter from the deadly -20C temperatures.

They include Andrei, sitting yesterday in the grimy walkway of a Moscow metro station, his

crippled legs folded beneath him, waiting for a glimmer of charity from the sea of commuters which swept endlessly past, back at work for the first day after the New Year.

Changes in the calendar matter far less to this 20-year-old invalid than the contents of his plastic bag, his version of a begging bowl, which sits at his feet not far from the spot on the pavement at which he stares without interruption, not even lifting his face when a few hundred roubles flutter down from a passer-by. "They say it is the strongest who survive, and the weaker who die," he says with such an air of misery that one need not ask which category he places himself in.

Five years ago, in Soviet times, Andrei – who spends his nights in railway stations – could not have lived as he now does. Homelessness was illegal: police from the Interior Ministry patrolled the streets, dispatching vagrants to jail-like hostels. In Moscow, the penalty for being found more than twice in a year without an address or documents was six months' jail.

In December 1993 the law was scrapped. The number of vagrants has since swelled steadily as the economy declined. Charity workers say four out of five are men, usually between 25 and 40, including many from the ex-Soviet republics. They come in the belief that Moscow is, if not paved with gold, at least a dependable source of employment.

What they discover, however, is a world where it is infinitely easier to develop tuberculosis, lice or scabies – or to receive a beating from the police – than it is to secure a job. So they often turn to begging.

But Russia's homeless – known as *bomzhi* (a police acronym for someone with no fixed address: *bez opredelennogo mesta zhitelstva*) do not always conform to the caricature of the criminal, habitually vagrant. Western hobo, even though about 20 per cent are ex-convicts. "We quite often have people who have university-level education and who had a job and lost it," said Siobhan Keegan, medical co-ordinator with Médecins sans Frontières

(MSF), which runs several medical centres for the homeless in Moscow.

In Soviet times, the authorities instructed businesses to employ and house vagrants, no matter how ill-suited they were to work. Now, privatised companies welcome the prospect of a *bomzhi* worker with about as much relish as a tax demand, and rarely take them on. Andrei had seven years of secondary education before being injured in a bad fall: "Who will take me as a worker? You have to be able to do something."

News that the city is finally moving to provide shelters elicited no more than a shrug from him. Nor was Miss Keegan popping open the champagne, although she gave the announcement a cautious welcome: "We would be very happy if they can do something, but our experience here has taught us to adopt a wait-and-see attitude." An announcement by Itar-Tass news agency underlines her point: "Vetsen orders an end to vagrancy and begging," it trumpets. But it was dated 3 November 1993.



On the scrap-heap: A Russian vagrant picking through a rubbish dump

Photograph: Peter Turnley/Black Star/Colorific

## Sarajevo detentions leave Nato powerless

EMMA DALY  
Sarajevo

Serb officials yesterday admitted detaining a number of Bosnian citizens travelling through enemy territory along roads into Sarajevo supposedly secured by Nato troops, prompting the first real test for the peace force and an argument over the division of military and civilian responsibilities.

Despite a high-level meeting between a Nato commander and the Serbs, none of the 16 people identified by the government as detainees have been freed. And while a spokesman for Nato's peace implementation force (I-For) said free movement was an issue for Carl Bildt's civilian mission, he urged the military to intervene.

The Serbs did release three elderly Bosnians who strayed into enemy territory late on Tuesday, but they were not among the 16 listed as missing.

At a 15-minute meeting yesterday between the two parties the Serbs offered to swap those arrested in a prisoner-of-war exchange, according to a source close to the talks. The Bosnian government refused the offer: "They are all civilians," the source said indignantly.

Under intense questioning from journalists, spokesmen for I-For, which is responsible for creating a secure environment across Bosnia, insisted the matter should be dealt with by the civilian mission, which is to include an international police force. Mr Bildt, its boss, finally arrived in Sarajevo yesterday, lagging behind the military by two weeks and complaining of a lack of resources.

He accepted criticism of his slow start, but said I-For ought to help fill the vacuum. Until his police force is operating, "it is important that all of the available resources here are used to try and secure freedom of movement", Mr Bildt said.

His first stop would be a visit to the I-For commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, in Sarajevo, to discuss the plight of the detainees. "Freedom of movement will have to be guaranteed one way or the other, and we would have to use those assets that are in place in order to try and ensure that freedom of movement," he said.

William Perry, the US Defense Secretary, who also visited Sarajevo yesterday, agreed. "It's very important that the po-

lice force gets in and established ... as soon as possible. In the meantime, Nato's force will do what it can to assist."

Mr Perry, the most senior US politician to visit Bosnia in wartime, was optimistic about I-For's mission. "We've got peace breaking out, we've got Nato on the ground," he said. In an attempt to improve the efficiency of those forces, alliance troops manning the road through Ildiza are now advising Bosnian civilians to travel in convoys of three to four cars to prevent further abductions.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, commander of Nato land forces in Bosnia, raised the issue of illegal detentions with the Serb mayor of Ildiza, Nedzeljko Prstojevic, at a lunch-time meeting yesterday. "We have agreed that the question, in so far as it affects the peace agreement, is unsatisfactory," the general said afterwards. "The mayor quite understands that the requirements of the Dayton peace agreement are such that there is to be total freedom of movement throughout the country. This is clearly not the case."

Mr Prstojevic, wearing army fatigues, said: "The implementation of the peace accord is gradual, but for the time being citizens are allowed to move along agreed roads," he said, in direct contradiction of Gen Walker. "There will not be any problems if civilians use the normal routes."

Mr Prstojevic refused to give names or numbers for those detained, but said all but three had been released "or are now leaving prison". The three, held at Knja prison and charged with unspecified crimes relating to smuggling, illegal trade and mistreating an old woman, had ventured off the main road "very far into Serb territory".

However, Bosnian officials said none of those detained had been released by nightfall. An I-For spokesman, Lt-Col Mark Rayner, said Nato was "very concerned" about their safety, but defended I-For against charges of laxity over security along the road.

"Can we be expected to prevent every lawless act that might occur in any other country in the world?" Admiral Smith asked. Observers were surprised to hear what seems to be a systematic policy, enacted by Serb police along old and familiar lines, described in such terms.

### Two British soldiers injured in blast

Sarajevo — Two British soldiers were wounded yesterday in an explosion while working to convert a hotel complex in Ildiza to serve as the headquarters for Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, commander of Nato land forces in Bosnia, writes Emma Daly.

Their injuries were not thought to be life-threatening, and the two men, who were not named, were treated at a French field hospital on Mount Igman, west of Sarajevo. I-For officials do not know if they triggered a land-mine or unexploded ordnance.

Between 3 million and 6 million mines were planted by all parties in the Bosnian war. Often unmarked or used as booby-traps, they pose a major threat to the 60,000-strong peace force pouring into Bosnia. Troops have received special training in mine avoidance and detection.

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## international

# Arafat's guards hold top rights activist

ERIC SILVER  
Jerusalem

Palestinian security forces, who last week detained an Arabic newspaper editor or disobeying orders to put a story in praise of Yasser Arafat on the front page, have struck again.

On Tuesday night they seized Bassam Eid, a leading Arab human rights activist, from his home in an East Jerusalem refugee camp. Last night Palestinian spokesmen were denying all knowledge of his whereabouts.

Mr Eid, 36, the father of eight children, made his name as a fearless field worker for the Israeli human rights organisation B'tselem. Throughout the seven years of the *intifada*, he was responsible for reports highlighting Israeli human rights violations. Since the Oslo peace agreement in September 1993, he has focused on abuses by the Palestinian security forces.

Yesterday Mr Eid was allowed to telephone B'tselem. He told the organisation that he had been detained by Force 17, Mr Arafat's elite personal guard, and taken to Ramallah, 18 miles north of Jerusalem, which reverted to Palestinian rule last week.

By last night, nothing more had been heard of him. A spokesman for the Palestinian National Authority denied that Force 17 was responsible, and blamed the arrest on "uncontrolled elements".

Mr Eid's latest dossier, published last August, listed dozens of cases in which the Palestinian Preventive Security Service kidnapped and tortured West Bank Palestinians living in areas still controlled by Israel. Last week he condemned the arrest of the Palestinian editor, Maher

Alami, who was released after six days. "It shows," Mr Eid told reporters, "that Yasser Arafat doesn't care about the freedom of the press."

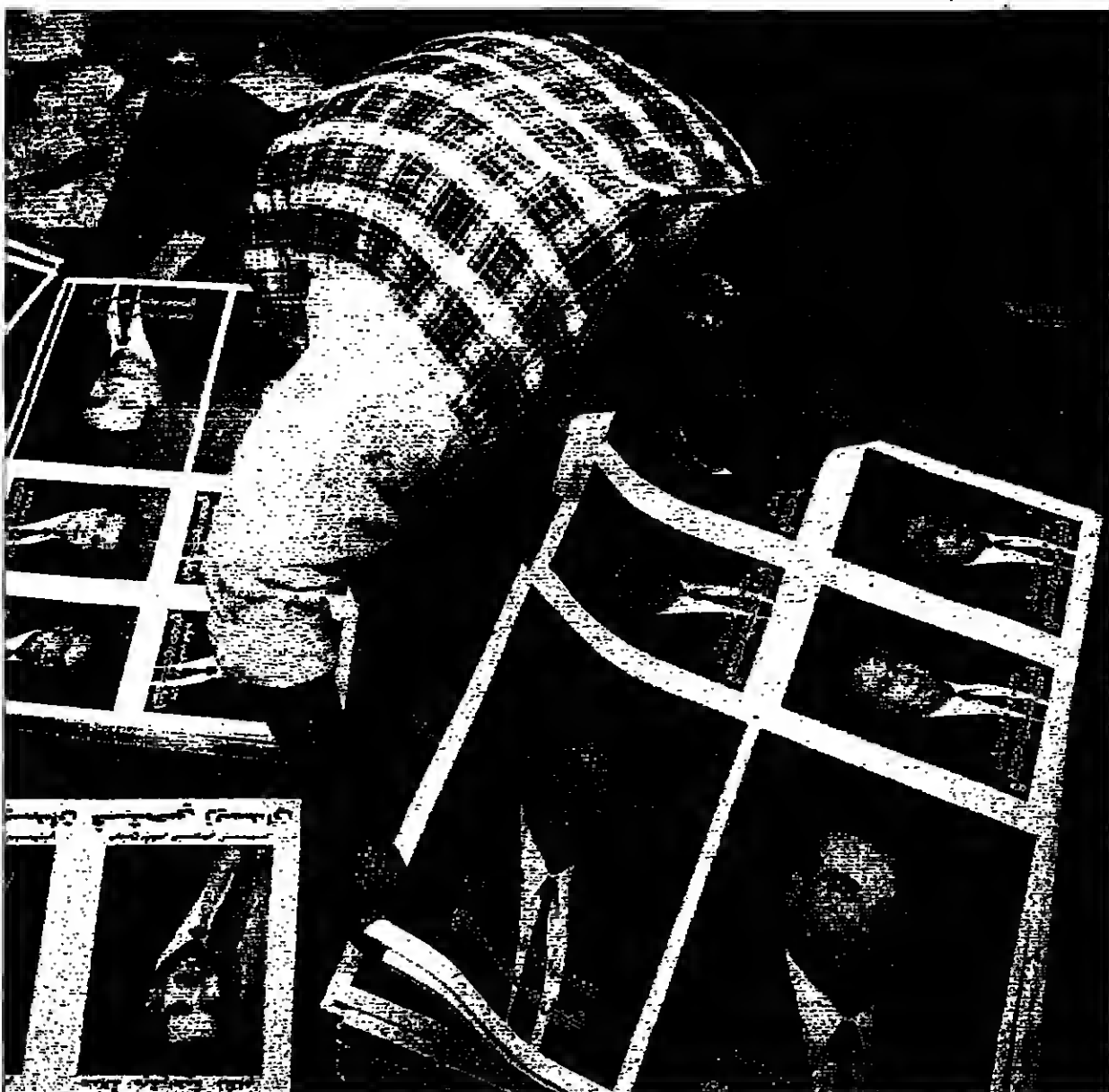
He has also worked with a team from the Paris-based media defence group Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), which is monitoring the 20 January Palestinian legislative elections. Last weekend they severely criticised public-sector Palestinian radio and television for denying opposition candidates a fair share of their campaign coverage. Mr Eid endorsed their criticism.

The human rights activist has frequently been threatened by both Israelis and Palestinians, but this is the first time he has been taken into custody. Yizhar Be'er, B'tselem's executive director, said: "We are very concerned about Palestinian respect for human rights. We hold the Palestinian authorities responsible for Bassam's safety and for his early release. His arrest is entirely unacceptable."

Thierry Cruveiller, head of the RSF monitoring team, protested to Mr Arafat. "We have been trying all day to get more information on where he is detained and when he will be released," he said last night. "But so far we have heard nothing more."

Mr Cruveiller suspected the arrest was linked to Mr Eid's censure of the editor's detention.

Nabatiyeh, Lebanon (AP) — Israel yesterday released five Lebanese prisoners from the notorious Khiam detention camp in the occupied southern Lebanon border enclave. The five had been held for more than five years by the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia on suspicion of launching guerrilla attacks on Israeli forces.



In the frame: A printer loads campaign posters yesterday for the Palestinian elections. Photograph: Jacqueline Arzi/AP

## IN BRIEF

## Confusion over Kashmir hostages

Srinagar — The fate of the four Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir, including two Britons, continues to hang in the balance, writes Mukhtar Ahmad. The Al-Farhan kidnap group yesterday expressed "surprise" over an official statement that the hostages were sighted in the village of Hakura Budgam in South Kashmir. The Al-Farhan statement alleged that "the sighting of the tourists at Hakura is understandable since the Indian army has a big camp at this village". The group insisted the "four foreign hostages were taken over by the Indian army in an encounter with the Al-Farhan on 4 December last year at the village of Dabran in South Kashmir". Meanwhile in the centre of New Delhi a bomb killed at least six people and seriously wounded about 20. In Srinagar a man claiming to speak for the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front, a little-known separatist group, claimed responsibility for detonating the device in Delhi's crowded Qutub Road area.

## Papandreou may seek treatment in US

Athens — Doctors were examining the possibility of flying the ailing Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, to the United States for further treatment. A State Department official said that although an airlift request had not yet been made, American medical specialists were being sent to examine Mr Papandreou. Now in his seventh week in critical condition in hospital, Mr Papandreou has suffered heavy damage to his kidneys, the latest medical bulletin said. The ruling socialists are divided over whether to find a successor or wait in the unlikely event that Mr Papandreou will be able to resume his duties. AP

## Tourists kidnapped in Costa Rica

San Jose — A group of at least 10 armed men kidnapped two European women from a hotel in northern Costa Rica on Tuesday, police said. The kidnappers demanded a \$1m (£650,000) ransom. Nicola Fleuchaus of Germany and Regula Susana Sigfried of Switzerland were seized in San Carlos, near the Nicaraguan border. Police believe they were taken to nearby mountains. AP

## Expelled charity told of Rwanda atrocities

Paris — The charity Médecins Sans Frontières, one of 43 aid agencies expelled from Rwanda, said its French wing was thrown out for reporting atrocities committed by the authorities. The Rwandan government ordered the foreign aid agencies out of the country last month, saying they had failed to register. Reuter

## Toddler dies under snowman

Zurich — A Swiss man building a snowman buried and killed his two-year-old daughter. Police believe the man, from Bauma near Zurich, accidentally rolled a big ball of snow over the girl. She died while her father and neighbours searched for her. Reuter

# Singapore's \$9bn plan to curb the car

STEPHEN VINES  
Hong Kong

Singapore's ever-vigilant planners have decided that more than \$9bn should be spent on an ultra-modern public transport system aimed at virtually eliminating the car from the island state.

The use of cars, already a luxury in Singapore, will increasingly be discouraged by heavier taxes and electronic road-pricing systems. While other countries, including the United Kingdom, have shunned railway development because of the high cost of construction, the Singaporeans see no alternative to the reliability and speed of railways and their kindness to the environment.

The aim, outlined in a 72-page White Paper, is not only to create an expanded domestic transport network but to provide the basis for an electric rail link stretching through Malaysia to Thailand. The railway will be integrated with Singapore's new, but as yet relatively small, mass rapid transit underground system and the light rail system, used for shorter journeys.

The standard of buses will be upgraded to create what is described as a more customer-oriented service. Bus flow would be improved by satellite-assisted tracking systems to improve scheduling.

As for cars, the planners have found in their dismay that despite Singapore's small size — about the same as the Isle of Wight — the average mileage of Singaporean cars is among the

highest in the world. They explain this by saying that car owners are more likely to use their vehicles, as they have had to pay such a high price to buy them.

Despite the war on car use, this week's White Paper reluctantly concedes that by 2010 one in seven Singaporeans will own a car, compared with the current ratio of one in ten.

One method of providing a form of private transport, while discouraging car use, will be to offer "car-like" taxi services, with taxis given guidance on the best routes by satellite.

The high price of the new transport infrastructure will be met by taxpayers financing the construction cost and the purchase of equipment such as trains, while the operating cost should be covered by fares.

Car users will contribute heavily, both by having to bid for licences in buy cars and by the road tolls imposed through an electronic road-pricing system.

Londoners may be puzzled by Singapore's belief that their city's mass transit system should serve as a model. Presumably Singapore will not be aiming to replicate some of the planning chaos surrounding the London Underground, but, in its characteristically determined way, the government will ensure that property and transport development proceed hand in hand.

Although the expenditure for the new system is vast — over \$30,000 per head of the population — it embraces many developments which are already on the stocks and, over 20 years, should be easy enough to absorb.



City of the future: Singapore wants ultra-modern rail links to Malaysia and Thailand. Photograph: Reuter

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## international

## Butterflies die by the million in freezing Mexican forest

PHIL DAVISON  
Latin America Correspondent

Between 20 and 30 million of the world's most beautiful butterflies, of the North American monarch species, may have been wiped out by snow and freezing weather this week in the Mexican mountain forest where they spend the winter.

Mexican ecologists who visited the Oyamel fir forest in the state of Michoacan reported that at least a third, possibly half, of the estimated 60 million hibernating monarchs had frozen to death or been buried under a foot of snow.

The picturesque orange-and-black butterflies are renowned for their 3,000-mile odyssey from the northern United States and Canada to the same Mexican forest every winter, taking up to three months at 30 miles a day and an altitude of one mile.

"The situation is devastating," said Homero Aridjis, a Mexican poet and leader of the "Group of 100" lobby of environmentalists. "Two of our biologists visited the butterflies' winter reserves and estimated that at least one-third had been wiped

out, blown from their perches on the fir trees and buried in the snow. It's possible up to half of them have died."

Despite the catastrophe, the

Monarchs, known to science as *Danaus plexippus*, are not endangered as a species by their latest losses. They are more threatened by increased logging

of their reserves, which is removing their protection from the elements, Mr Aridjis said. They will probably restore their numbers quickly if breeding conditions are good on their way back to the north, he added.

An unusually bad snowstorm which occurred in 1992 wiped out at least 70 per cent of the hibernating monarchs in Michoacan state, but the butterflies are already close to their previous levels.

After flying down in October from as far north as Ontario, the monarchs settle beneath the normal snow line over several square miles of forest west of Mexico City on mountains that reach more than 10,000ft.

Visitors who trek to see them in normal weather are stunned by a solid landscape of orange and black as the butterflies cover the ground and trees. If disturbed, they almost black out the sky and sound like a heavy drizzle as they flutter in their millions.

It is impossible to visit the area without trampling hundreds, if not thousands of monarchs underfoot, since they also cover all pathways, a dilemma which has led Mr Aridjis's

group to call on the Mexican government to restrict access to the reserves.

Picnickers who play loud music and leave litter also endanger the butterflies, but their biggest problem of recent years has been the gradual deforestation of the area by loggers.

The local Oyamel fir trees usually act as an umbrella for the butterflies against heavy rains and rarer snow storms, such as the one last weekend.

On their flight from the north-eastern US and Canada the butterflies stick to the US east coast and invariably make a "pit stop" around St Marks in Florida to gorge themselves on milkweed, which will give them enough body fat to survive the winter.

While milkweed's poisonous sap is avoided by most other creatures, it is absorbed by the monarchs and gives them a natural defence against predators.

Monarchs often live up to 10 months, mostly surviving the epic journey south but dying while laying their eggs along the Gulf coast of the US — in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama or Florida — on their more westerly return trip.



Last flutter: In the fir forest where the butterflies winter, a visitor examines victims of the cold snap



Light fantastic: Monarchs at rest on a snow-decked branch. It is estimated that 20 to 30 million of them died in cold weather at the weekend Photographs: AP



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## Budget row throws US embassies into chaos

JOHN CARLIN  
Washington

Drinking water deliveries to US diplomats in Havana have been stopped because last month's bill went unpaid. The US embassy in Hanoi has been warned to pay up \$1,000 in overdue electricity payments or the power will be cut off.

Because of the government cash freeze resulting from the inability of Congress and the White House to agree on a national budget, American diplomatic missions are in turmoil.

Unable to come up with the cash to pay for local services and locally-hired staff, in Mexico, where people carry resentment against the United States in their bones, newspaper commentators have been chortling at the embarrassment of Uncle Sam, prompting a buffy response from the US Embassy.

"The embassy wishes to make it clear," a statement said, "that this situation arises from the constitutional definitions of how the United States budget is passed into law, and does not represent any fundamental inability of the United States of America to pay its bill."

A senior official at the State Department suggested, however, that the caricature of the US as a giant "banana republic" is not all that far off the mark. Richard Moose, under-secretary of state for management, told the *Washington Post*: "My threshold of believing what can't happen is getting lower all the time."

The point has been reached, for example, where American embassies are unable to pay for the meals of their Marine guards. In Colombia, consular officials deployed to deal with the families of the victims of last week's American Airlines plane crash worked officially as volunteers, because there was no money to pay their wages.

If the US is becoming a laughing stock overseas, at home there is growing outrage, not least because the congressmen responsible for the government shut-down (yesterday into its 19th day) continue to receive their wages on time and, in some cases, to venture off on foreign trips.

Few are more outraged than the government workers, 760,000 of whom have not been paid since 16 December. The Department of Labour reported yesterday that 96,000 government employees had applied for unemployment benefits. Many more have been beseeching their banks for interest-free credit to tide them over so they can pay their mortgages and other bills.

The fall-out of the wrangling in Washington is affecting a growing number of people

every day. Meals-on-wheels for the elderly are expected to shut down in a dozen states; shortages of food and supplies are being reported in veterans' hospitals and in federal prisons; tourism is suffering, because museums and national parks have been closed and because of the incapacity of foreign embassies to supply visas — US airlines are reporting that their inbound international flights are carrying half the normal load of passengers.

President Bill Clinton and the leaders of the Republican majorities in the House and Senate, Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole, concluded three hours of talks on Tuesday night. They reported no breakthrough, but "constructive progress".

A concern uppermost in the minds of politicians of all sides is that they should not be ide-



Clinton: Worried about being blamed for mess

ified as being to blame for the mess. Yesterday it became clear that the greatest stumbling block is the House of Representatives. The Senate voted on Tuesday night for the government to be immediately reopened and for unpaid staff immediately to receive their overdue cheques, but the House is refusing to go along.

Mr Dole, Mr Clinton's probable presidential rival this year, said enough was enough: "I don't see any sense in what we've been doing." He disagreed with Mr Gingrich and his zealous Republican footsoldiers in the House. Mr Gingrich insisted yesterday he would continue to play the shut-down card as a means of pressuring Mr Clinton to accept Republican proposals for balancing the federal budget by the year 2002.

The President rejects the proposals because they would cut social welfare while providing tax breaks for the rich.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, yesterday said Mr Gingrich belonged to "a gruesome group" of obstructionist Congressional Republicans, a description which may not have aided the talks Mr Clinton held yesterday with the House Speaker and Mr Dole.

Markets, page 18

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# Delors fears Franco-German clash

MARY DEJEVSKY,  
Paris

Jacques Delors has warned it may no longer be Britain which is the main cause of disunity in the European Union. The Franco-German axis, historically the driving force behind European integration, is itself becoming a problem, he has cautioned.

The New Year in France has brought an icy blast of frankness about the growing instability of the relationship between Bonn and Paris, a subject hitherto thought settled, or too risky to be discussed at all. The former president of the European Commission and the historian François Furet have both said

this week that, whether or not Europe turns out to be the solution, a preponderant Germany could very well be the problem, as it has been before.

For these two figures — one from the left, the other from the right — to sound so public a warning shows the growing concern in France. Mr Delors decided last year not to stand for the French presidency race because he feared to inflame the European issue in France.

Reviewing a new book about Europe by Laurent Cohen-Tanguy in the magazine *Nouvel Observateur* yesterday, Mr Delors wrote: "I cannot but approve when the author invites us not to focus more than nec-

essary on the classic reservations of Great Britain [about Europe] ... Let us have the courage to recognise that the real risk today is not so much the risk of a Euro-British crisis as that of a Franco-German split."

Interviewed the previous day in the daily newspaper *Figaro*, Mr Furet said: "France today has two main problems: the first is that of budget deficits ... the other, that of Europe ... But these two problems have the same face: Germany."

France's deficit-cutting drive, which provoked the recent public-sector strikes, is partly a response to German dismay at the prospect of a European currency replacing the strong mark

without other countries matching German fiscal discipline.

Mr Furet added that "120 years after Bismarck and two world wars, we find ourselves facing the very same question that was posed at the end of the last century: how can Europe be made to live when it has such a German preponderance?"

Mr Delors criticises Mr Cohen-Tanguy's view that the fall of the Berlin wall called into question the guiding ideas of the European Union's founders. But in maintaining that these principles, above all the desirability of locking Germany into a politically as well as economically united Europe, are more necessary than ever, Mr Delors

warns that this project could fail.

"By swinging between the reflex of sovereignty *à la anglo-saxonne* and federalist ambition *à la Germany*, the native land of Jean Monnet [founding father of the EU] ... risks discouraging those German leaders who have repeatedly and unfailingly shown their allegiance to a European Germany rather than a German Europe."

For such an ardent European as Mr Delors even to hazard such a thought in public, even as a pretext for proposing a "European federation of nation-states", suggests the Franco-German relationship is not as solid as both sides insist.

Mr Furet's historical allusions drive home the point. The reason why the German problem has returned, he says, is "because Germany is at the centre of Europe, it is the most productive and most populous country, it is unified and, with the end of Communism and for the first time since Peter the Great, it has no counterbalance in the East. We therefore face a Europe in potential, if not real, disequilibrium, where Germany is the dominant power."

The depth of French fears was clear last year. Successive Franco-German meetings, including two summits held at short notice on French instigation, seemed designed to reas-

sure Germans about France's commitment to Europe under President Jacques Chirac, and its determination to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single currency.

However, German concerns about France and Maastricht pale into insignificance compared with France's fears about Germany's commitment to the European project. It fears a Europe so dominated by Germany that it is in effect German, it fears the idea of a federal Europe in which national sovereignty, including that of France, is sacrificed. Above all it fears that if Germany forsakes the single currency, the European project is dead.

## Arnhem blast tied to French N-tests

KEIRON HENDERSON  
Reuters

Arnhem — A bomb exploded at a building housing the offices of the French bank Paribas and France's honorary consul in Arnhem. Dutch police said yesterday it may have been a protest against French nuclear tests.

The bomb badly damaged the building and blew out windows up to 100 yards away late on Tuesday night, but no one was injured, a police spokesman said.

He added that the damage indicated a fairly large device. "We haven't had any calls claiming responsibility, although we believe it could be related to protests against French [nuclear] weapons testing in the Pacific. We cannot prove that, but there has been worldwide protest against the French tests and we're guessing there's a link there."

Benoit Monseigneur, chairman of Banque Paribas NV in the Netherlands, declined to comment on the motive for the attack. But he said the company was tightening up security at its network of nine Dutch branches, which mainly offer corporate banking. "We're doing what is necessary ... But if someone sends you a bomb in the middle of the night there's not a lot you can do about it," Mr Monseigneur said.

The police said they were investigating whether the explosion could be linked to a bomb attack last October on the Arnhem office of Crédit Lyonnais, another French bank.

"No one claimed responsibility for that attack and it's a point of the investigation to see whether there is any link," the spokesman said.

Asked about a possible connection to French nuclear weapons testing, a French embassy spokesman in The Hague said: "It's only a possibility, nothing is sure."

The decision by the French President, Jacques Chirac, last year to resume nuclear tests in the south Pacific touched off protests around the world. Protesters have mainly confined themselves to peaceful demonstrations and boycotts of French products.

## Strikers take the Mickey out of Disney

MARY DEJEVSKY,  
Paris

There is discord in the Magic Kingdom. Walt Disney's enchanted land, which has already had more than its fair share of misfortune since it was transplanted to Europe, has hit a new problem: labour unrest.

Visitors to what used to be Euro Disney, which now calls itself Disneyland Paris, were offered an extra unscheduled spectacle on New Year's Eve, when a group of discontented workers tried to go on strike and picketed the main entrance. Against the surreal backdrop of coloured balloons, Mickey Mouse paraphernalia and security staff wielding camcorders, scuffles ensued in which 14 people were injured. Now 18 Disney employees, including 10 trade union officials, face dismissal.

Details of what happened are hard to extrapolate from sharply conflicting accounts.

A spokesman for Disney said that "no more than 40 to 50 people" turned up to demonstrate, protesting "with not very coherent demands" about a host of things from the Juppé plan,

the government's contentious welfare reform, to pay "We had some people," the spokesman said reprovingly, "who chose violence to express their demands... We are always open to dialogue between employees and management... but we had people who tried to force their way into the park and this is unacceptable."

But it is far from clear who is the Big Bad Wolf. The main union involved, the CGT — one of the unions at the forefront of last month's national strike movement — has a rather different version. The secretary of the Marne-la-Vallée branch, Anne-Marie Njo, said that "around 200 people" had turned up to protest about the imposition from 1 January of an "inadequate" pay rise. She said that the workers concerned had actually declared a day's strike, but that the management had changed the rotas to give all those suspected of involvement a compulsory day off.

Instead of striking, she said, the workers had to demonstrate — but when they tried to communicate with their colleagues on duty, they were prevented from entering or passing messages.



Paris (AP) — The actors Gérard Depardieu (pictured above in a scene from *Cyrano de Bergerac*) and Jean Marais and the director Marcel Carné have been promoted to the French Legion of Honour.

Also honoured in lists published this week were the writer Henri Troyat, the jazz pianist Jacques Dival and the European Commission member Yves Thibault de Silguy.

Carné, 89, director of *Les Enfants du Paradis*, *Hotel du Nord* and other classics, was promoted to Grand Officer, the Legion's highest rank. Marais, a long-time theatre and movie actor, was promoted to the rank of Commander of the Legion of Honour. Depardieu, one of France's best-known actors who starred in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Green Card*, was promoted to the rank of Chevalier.

Mr de Silguy is in charge of economics for the Commission, the executive branch of the European Union. As such, he will play an important role in the implementation of a single European currency. The Legion was created by Napoleon in 1802.

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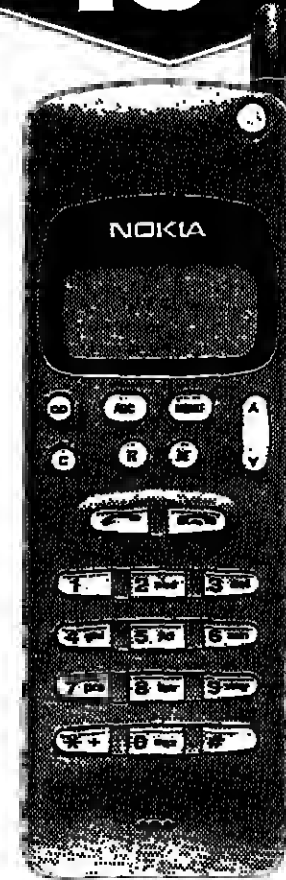
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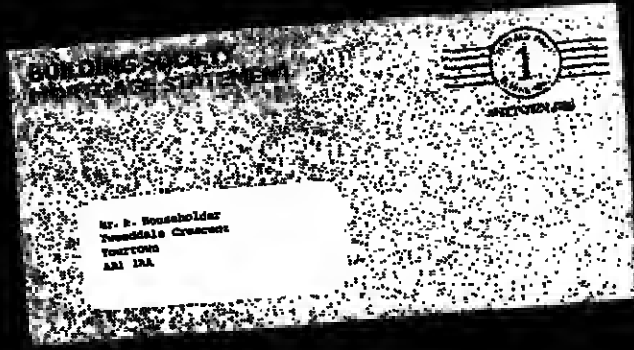
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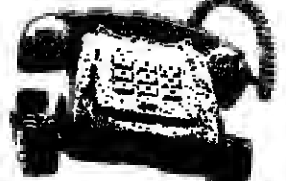
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The abuse heaped on Emma Nicholson has been extreme, not least because she is a woman, says Polly Toynbee

# Why do they hate her so much?

A cornucopia of abuse has greeted Emma Nicholson's defection. Those who only read the polite press may have missed the full flavour of it. Still it continues, six days after her departure, with a bold *Sun* headline yesterday reading "Two-Faced Emma". The barrage has been extraordinary and disproportionate.

Alan Howarth received a pretty steaming mound of invective, accusing him of careerism, ambition, raving, inconsistency and more. They tried to dig dirt with stories of parliamentary foreign trips with a baroness on the same committee. Nothing outrages more than betrayal, schism and defection: no holds are barred, no fifth too dirty, no abuse too strong. Floor-crossers down the years, from Reg Prentice to the 30 SDP breakaways (including that remarkable double-bouncer, John Horam), all bear the scars of a flight of verbal knives hurled into their fleeing backs.

And yet no invective has sunk quite so low as that attracted by the defection of the relatively humble backbencher, Ms Nicholson. Howarth's critics implied he was, or had been, a man of substance and stature – no suggestion that he was stupid or worthless. But when Portillo called Emma Nicholson "silly", that summed up the whole sexist tone of her treatment. (His departmental colleague Nicholas Soames's intemperate assault on Princess Diana was of the same ilk.) Women get it in the neck in the Tory party, Mrs Thatcher notwithstanding.

Teresa Gorman has no reason to like Emma Nicholson. Gorman is one of those xenophobic Euro rebels Nicholson accuses of having dragged the party to the extreme right. Yet in a backhanded way, Gorman confirms the sexist treatment she thinks Nicholson has received at the hands of the party they plainly both deplore.

"She is a patrician, not really a politician," Gorman says. "However thick or daft they are, patrician Tories always get jobs in government – but not if you are a woman." She lists Lennox Boyd, Hogg, Sackville, Archie Hamilton, Waldegrave, Antram, Soames and Maude as just a few examples of the scions of Tory dynasties who rose without question or, she implies, much merit. "They are all part of the ruling elite. It's all connections and who you are – but not if you are a woman, and that ranked with Emma because she is one of them."

Deep-dyed dislike of women in their ranks permeates the parliamentary party, and it isn't just feminist Teresa Gorman who says so. There is a hountful supply of very able women who have tried without success to break in. Nicholson was a fighter for more women within the party and she

founded the successful High Fliers recruitment initiative. That always marked her out for special mockery among her male parliamentary colleagues, for the one thing worse than a woman MP is a feminist woman MP.

The litany of sexist abuse that has been heaped on Emma Nicholson is worth detailing. John Carlisle MP described her as "a woman who has prostituted herself". Another MP said: "She's a frightful bitch". One MP mused, "Is it something to do with the menopause?" while Exeter's prospective candidate called her "The Wicked Witch of the West". Woodrow Wyatt (*The Voice of Reason*) called her "vain and silly".

Past-master of poison Lord Tebbit, writing in the *Sun*, responded tartly to her accusation that eight years ago – when she was a vice chairman of the party and he was chairman – he had rebuked her for her attempts to bring more black and Asian women into the party. He retorted: "In fact I fired her because her unrelenting demands for more office space, new curtains, furniture and staff were costing more than she was worth... No Miss Nicholson, I don't see you as a woman of political principle. I see you as a hanger-on to the coat-tails of anyone who might advance your ambition."

Lord McAlpine, former party

treasurer, dredged up the worst dirt when he recalled scandal from her vice chairman days: "Emma Nicholson put a lot of noses out of joint and it was not long before her committee discovered that she was thought to be having an affair with a married man. Those women set about her like a pack of hungry wolves, and had it not been for the personal intervention of Margaret Thatcher, who took the view that the whole matter was a load of nonsense, Miss Nicholson's political career would have come to an abrupt halt."

The *Daily Mail* duly dispatched its terriers, who came up with an "exclusive" they could have found in the cuttings. Nicholson started a relationship with her present

husband, Sir Michael Caine, when she was a vice chairman of the party and he was still married to his former wife, Janice. In these days when divorce is common, almost everyone has some aggrieved former spouse or lover whose old wounds can be gouged open again to serve a purpose, so Janice Caine was duly prodded into reliving the details of her betrayal, humiliation and desertion.

There is no such thing as a clean break in politics, but this defection must rank as one of the most hilariously rancorous. Political parties are largely tribal, so affiliation to them is more visceral than rational. Clan loyalty and uncomprehending fear of

the utterly alien terrain across the floor keeps most of them fixed immutably in their own benches.

But underneath there rankles the real worm in the Tory breast – she is a woman. Women just don't do this. Women are the little helpers and helpmeets, the secretaries and Girl Fridays of the party, running the back rooms and the constituencies, loyal as labradors, without whose devoted service the men of the party could not function. Gillian Shephard and Virginia Bottomley are unheeded tokens, patronised, belittled and ignored. "Witch", "bitch", "vain" and "silly" she may be, but what Emma did was above all unwomanly and unnatural.

Yet she has proved to be made of tough stuff, standing her ground, rebutting each sally. To each new sneer she has retaliated with more devastating stories from within the bowels of the party: once she was hit in the pit of the stomach by an MP outraged at her vote in support of the Nolan anti-sleaze measures. With chapter and verse she has denounced them all roundly as racist, chauvinist, Little Englanders, fudging their principles, and pandering to hard-faced populism. In the insult stakes, she has scarcely drawn breath, scooping up the mud and hurling it back again with far more deadly accuracy than any of the old boys lined up on the other side.

"Is it something to do with the menopause? She has reached an age when women go through an emotional time and try to reappropriate their lives. I notice she had time to have her hair done nicely before going on television to announce her decision"

Anonymous female MP, *The Independent*, 1.1.96

"... her teenage grasp of political reality"

*Daily Express*, 1.1.96

"In fact I fired her because her unrelenting demands for new curtains, furniture and staff were costing more than she was worth"

Lord Tebbit in the *Sun*, 1.1.96

"She's a frightful bitch"

A West Country Tory MP and former ally, the *Sun*, 1.1.96

"The poor woman has no idea what she thinks"

*Daily Express*, 1.1.96

"Jealousy over the promotion of three Tory women rivals was behind Emma Nicholson's decision"

*The Sun*, 1.1.96

Montage: Mark Hayman

## DIARY

### Tories take to the pistes

Where do leading Conservative MPs spend their angst-ridden New Year break worrying about the Government's wafer-thin majority? The answer is on the ski slopes at the plush Swiss resort of Davos.

Winston Churchill MP has led a group of colleagues including the former Cabinet minister Tom King, the whip Richard Ottaway and PPS Alan Duncan on a fact-finding mission to the slopes. They are guests of the Anglo-Swiss par-

entire majority in Switzerland. Normally the MPs could have expected to take their sporting pleasures undisturbed. But I have news for them. The Prince of Wales, I understand, plans to move from Klosters to Davos on Monday and may even compete in the race himself. That should guarantee a few dozen photographers to ensure that the Anglo-Swiss parliamentary group are publicly accountable.

### Gunned down

Concerns for the gravitas of the Oxford Union, fuelled by recent tirades of note such as Kermit the Frog, will be allayed by news of a forthcoming debate. "This House believes that a civilised society cannot permit hunting and shooting" is surely a suitable matter to occupy great minds. But what authority has the union enlisted to speak for the motion?

None other than James Barrington, ex-director of the League Against Cruel Sports, who was forced last month to quit the post – and the movement – after appearing, in an interview in the *Field* magazine, to be rather in league with cruel sports. If hunters stopped using terriers, he had offered helpfully, their sport might enjoy "a new lease of life". Colleagues found such generosity of spirit inexplicable, and Mr Barrington's professional battle against cruel sports was brought to an abrupt end.

News of his forthcoming appearance at the Oxford Union has raised more than the odd eyebrow at his erstwhile office. "His public speaking skills have always been fine," I

am told grudgingly. "It's his beliefs we are not too sure about. I'm not even sure he's speaking on the right side – maybe he's muddled it up."

Might some over-zealous hunt saboteurs descend on the chamber to express their feelings in their inimitable fashion? The President of the Union, Jonathan Wolf, hopes not. "The whole point of a debate," he explains, "is to put forward your point in a sensible manner. And besides, I've never shot anything – I'm a Londoner."



Liz all washed up

### Sticky mess

The Cirque du Soleil, the radical French Canadian circus troupe, which starts a season at the Royal Albert Hall on Friday, has a tradition of entertaining showbiz royalty at its after-show parties and keeping mementoes of their visits.

Tragedy struck. I hear, in its recent American show, when the circus entertained its favourite celeb, Elizabeth Taylor. It decided to keep her lipstick-stained wine glass, frame it, and carry it for ever on its travels. While the troupe's two leaders argued over who

should be entrusted with the memento, a Mexican dishwasher took it and washed it up.

### Peer review

Just as the dust was settling on the *Telegraph* newspaper stable's recent round of musical chairs, another departure was announced yesterday. Not this time, another editor, shuffling for safety, but the grand old man of the *Telegraph* himself, Lord Hartwell, one-time owner and editor-in-chief.

The 84-year-old peer's Berry family trust sold their last shares in the company recently. But Lord Hartwell's retirement from the board does not quite signal the end of the Berrys at the *Telegraph*. His son, Adrian Berry, remains at the coalface – as the paper's industrial reporter.

### Olivier's final act?

Now we know what the greatest actor of the century did when he was not treading the boards. He boarded, dear boy, he boarded.

Laurence Olivier is to be the subject of a new and allegedly definitive biography by the former theatre critic and National Theatre literary consultant Derek Granger, who has been promised co-operation by Sir Laurence's widow, Joan Plowright, and the family of his second wife, Vivien Leigh.

Granger was not surprised that Olivier had kept key accessories to his acting career – the recipe for his all-over body make-up for Othello, for example. But other keepsakes have been harder to explain.

"Olivier was a man who kept everything," says Granger. "Old driving licences, steamboat tickets,



Mystery, dear boy ...

veterinary prescriptions for ailing kittens, seed catalogues and the pedigrees of his dairy herd at Nottley Abbey." While meaningless material has been carefully stored, meaningful material has been uncovered in the unlikely places. The last letters written to a 12-year-old Olivier by his mother just before she died, and a batch of censored wartime letters from Vivien Leigh, have been found in a bramble-grown, mouse-infested farmyard barn. There must, as actors say, have been method in it somewhere.

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# THE INDEPENDENT

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ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

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## Admissions of failure

Selection in schools appears to be on the way back. This would be the most revolutionary change in the state education system for decades. The Government is considering allowing state schools more control over their own admissions procedures. The most likely option is enabling schools to select their pupils on the basis of interviews with the children and their parents.

Advocates of such a change argue that schools should be allowed to choose pupils from supportive families that will instil discipline and academic motivation into their children and reflect the values of the school.

But do we really want to go down this road? Imagine the family turning up for their classroom grilling. Articulate, well-educated professional parents will find it easy to convey the impression of a motivated family, which values academic standards – and their charming children will be quickly accepted. But the child whose parents have no qualifications, little respect for academic achievement, and a deep suspicion of schools and teachers is likely to be at a considerable disadvantage, no matter how bright he or she is.

There is a stronger case for interviewing prospective pupils: at least, unlike their parents, they will actually attend the school. But the downside cannot be ignored. The children who are already confident and socially at ease will have a great advantage over the shy, retiring, the awkward or the socially inhibited child, no matter what their academic potential.

There is one possible advantage in

allowing schools to determine their admissions procedures. Each school could build up its own distinctive virtues, whether it be academic achievement, religious commitment or excellence in music or art. But the benefits that might accrue from such a wide range of choices for parents are outweighed by the dangers inherent in the kind of social selection that is being canvassed.

Had the Government suggested selection on the basis of ability, it might have a stronger case. At least the 11-plus purported to offer an objective way to discriminate between pupils by presenting everyone with the same independent test. And it was a considerably more meritocratic way of determining access to the best schools than the current system, where your chance of a good education depends on the area you live in or your parents' ability to pay school fees.

The problem with the 11-plus, lest we forget, is that it produced a form of academic apartheid. At the age of 11, all too many pupils were branded for life. Late developers suffered from being stuck in the wrong school. And the less able received low-quality education.

The current system of determining who goes to which school is not ideal. But the Government's proposals are not going to improve the situation. Most parents' biggest concern is how to get their child into an over-subscribed popular school and avoid the sink school down the road. Mr Major would do better to focus on expanding good schools and improving bad ones rather than encouraging social selection.

## In defence of the plucky citizen

Everyone admires the plucky citizen who wrestles the villain to the ground. We all wonder how we would react to the intruder trying to burgle our house or break into our car. At a time when the police seem unable to control crime, and fear of violence is increasing, acts of individual courage carry particular appeal. They offer hope that good will overcome evil.

But tackling criminals can go wrong. Heroes can end up dead. They can also find themselves in the dock. No one knows yet whether Nick Baugartner, the businessman involved at the weekend in a fatal struggle with a burglar, will be charged over the intruder's death.

Indeed, legal precedent is extremely grey on the question of self-defence and protection of property. The law is plain enough: it allows a citizen to use "reasonable force" against an attacker or burglar. Court interpretations, on the other hand, are unpredictable.

Last year an 82-year-old man had to pay £4,000 compensation after he fired his shotgun at an intruder who was breaking into his allotment shed. In other instances, householders have been acquitted after killing burglars. The most celebrated case in the last century involved a man in his seventies who surprised four burglars and killed three of them with a carving knife. He was awarded a knighthood.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has recently entered the debate. He contends that the police are over-zealous in charging people with offences such as assault when they seek to defend their property with violence. The problem is

that it is impossible to lay down clear rules as to what a householder should be allowed to do to an intruder. No one, after all, can be expected to weigh up precise rules of engagement when a menacing figure lurks in the darkness. As one judge said: "Detached reflection can't be expected in the presence of an uplifted knife."

But a couple of principles should guide juries. First, people must be able to use potentially lethal violence when they think their lives or those of others are in danger. Second, we should be entitled to defend our goods with physical force. But this dispensation is limited. A person cannot, for example, be permitted to shoot a burglar departing with the video recorder. Life – even that of a burglar – is more important than property.

These ideas currently guide the law and distinguish Britain from the United States, where trespassers enjoy virtually no legal protection. This difference was illustrated when a Japanese tourist was shot dead after ringing a doorbell in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He wanted to ask for directions to a Halloween party. The householder's lawyer said that Americans had the "absolute legal right" to answer everyone who comes to their door with a gun. The man was acquitted of murder.

In Britain, the law and juries must strike a sensible balance. Citizens defending their property deserve our respect and a supportive legal attitude. That cannot mean anything goes. But there are grounds for believing that the present balance needs shifting a little in the direction of the plucky citizen.

## Angus Deayton with moon-dried tomatoes

Well, you have waited long enough for the answers to our grand Christmas Quiz, and here they are today. Hope you all did well!

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. Y-e-e-s, maybe.
4. Possibly, Lord Copper.
5. The odd man out is Michael Portillo. All the rest are politicians.
6. Old-fashioned instrument used for getting ostrich eggs out of ostriches.
7. a) HG Wells. b) GF Wells. c) FE Wells. d) Tumblebug Wells.
8. Beverley Minister is not, in fact, a girl's name.
9. It is a new TV programme aimed at bringing emergency help to people like Esther Rantzen.
10. They were built from a design based on Janet Street-Porter's teeth.
11. Clunes.
12. Clones.
13. Clunes.
14. Clunes.
15. Old-fashioned instrument designed to get large humbugs and pieces of liquorice out of small boys.
16. A film called *Martin on the Bounty*.
17. The odd man out is Jeffrey Archer. All the rest are writers.
18. The name given by supermarket workers to objects to which labels will never stick, no matter how adhesive.
19. The meaning of "widge" before it



MILES KINGSTON

came to mean a device in beer cans. 20. The odd one out is McDonald's. All the rest are restaurants. 21. It is the name given by psychologists to man's inability to agree on which is the last year of the century. 22. The ancient motto of the Rampliffe family. In English it means "Worship the Lord and keep your receipts". 23. Prozac. 24. Anzac. 25. A German word, meaning "Zeitgeist". 26. A cow discredited theory that the universe began with a big bang, a drum roll, a sudden hush and the appearance of God with scissors to cut the ribbon. 27. It is the name given by psychologists to our habit of cheerily waving to and greeting familiar people in the street, and only realising later that they weren't old friends – they were someone famous, such as Angus Deayton.

28. The three most often told so-called funny stories in Britain end as follows: a) "Nein, double u". b) "My sister? Oh, she is still Queen." c) "That's easy – Goethe wrote *Faust* and Joyce wrote *Ulysses*." 29. It is a word applied to things that seem to be euponyms, but aren't. In other words, words which suggest that things are named after people, though they really aren't, such as billboard, jackknife, martingale, etc. 30. A film called *Martin on the Bounty*. 31. An old-fashioned device for removing false moustaches from inside victims. 32. Kind of Scottish rock cake known as the Auld Scone of Stone. 33. The only countries in which it is a crime to use a mobile phone in a train. 34. The name given by the police to the act of sending obscene faxes. 35. Arsenal, in 1949, in white shorts and red shirts. They were found two weeks later, apparently unharmed but totally dazed and unable to remember what had happened to them. 36. A slang term used by Martians to refer to one of their number who has lived for over 10 years on Earth without attracting suspicion or being fired by John Major. 37. Because when Emma Nicholson leaves the Tory party, it is called "defecting", but when Mr Portillo

- tries to leave Europe, it is called "safeguarding our sacred national unity". 38. It is a term given by supermarket workers to the informal supermarket trolley races that are often held by supermarket workers after hours, when the shops are shut and the aisles are invitingly empty. (The trolleys often suffer damage in these races and hereafter only steer to the left or the right, though the general public never suspects the true cause of this commonly noticed defect.) 39. A term given by psychologists to the way in which famous people like Angus Deayton will ignore greetings offered to them in the street, and only realise five minutes later, with a shock, that that person offering a courteous "Hello" was actually Paul Merton. 40. A film called *Martin on the Bounty*. 41. The odd man out is Brian Mawhinney. All the rest are doctors. 42. Freckles peculiar to a camel. 43. The form of Morse code used by deaf people. 44. The act of writing the life of Boswell. 45. An Irish health warning. 46. A secret sign used by dentists to recognise each other. 47. Moon-dried tomatoes. 48. A film called *Botany on the Mountain*.



"But I don't want £40m! It would ruin my life!"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Oxford vs 'Disneyland' – the spires aren't always inspiring

From Dr John Ashworth

Sir: The long overdue debate about what sort of universities we need, how many students they should have, and how we should fund both universities and students will not be advanced by Niall Ferguson's innumerate nonsense ("Oxford? Sorry Prof, I'm into media studies", 1 January).

The UCAS figures, not yet publicly available by the way, cannot show what he claims since there was a change in the application procedure this year. Instead of being invited to choose eight institutions on their application forms, intending students were allowed to choose only six this autumn. A fall in the number of applications of less than 25 per cent, therefore, corresponds to an increase in attractiveness. If applicants have also decreased, then that 25 per cent is also too low.

But, be that as it may, if it turns out that the LSE has a decrease in applications of only 13 per cent, it clearly remains, to use Mr Ferguson's phrase, a "Mecca of studentdom" in the Nineties as it was in the Sixties and, indeed, as it has been since it was founded.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ASHWORTH  
Director  
London School of Economics  
London, WC2

From Dr Tony Morgan, BA Oxon

Sir: Niall Ferguson is too learned for me to lecture him on dinosaurs, but maybe he can help me to understand something.

My daughter, a student at the country's most successful sixth-form college (50 Oxbridge entrants last year) recently attended an Oxford open day for prospective applicants. She returned unpersuaded that the course she was interested in matched up to the interesting yet traditional A-level courses she is following and, accordingly applied elsewhere. She is too polite and educated to say so, but I think she also found the prospect of spending three years surrounded by so many Mad Hatters, White Rabbits and Red Queens rather uninviting.

Have I got it wrong? It does seem a pity for all our sakes that the institution which has been so privileged with resources for so long has not the wit to attract our young generation. But then, she and her friends have been exposed in Cambridge to rather a lot of the same narrow breed that Mr Ferguson values, and has encountered a lot of dodos in her young life here.

Did she perhaps detect that Niall Ferguson's colleagues are not very interested in teaching

undergraduates anyway – and therefore are not really concerned with creating an environment that would attract them in the first place?

Yours faithfully,  
TONY MORGAN  
Anglia University  
Cambridge  
2 January

From Mr David Marley

Sir: Niall Ferguson's self-coined conservative educational ideals seem to have led to a lack of desire to question conventional activity in universities: a fault surely unacceptable from academics, especially self-styled superior ones from hallowed Oxbridge.

Government funding for the rapidly increasing higher education system has been appalling, and this is felt particularly strongly in many new universities, where there is a desperate lack of facilities in many departments. This has resulted in a frustrated staff and student body forced to get by with poorly stocked libraries and increasing staff/student ratios. These are serious problems worthy of serious consideration and should not be ridiculed by calling new universities "Disneyland" institutions offering "Mickey Mouse degrees".

And is it so unreasonable that students, with their increasing financial contribution to their education, should demand courses that interest them? Is not media studies a form of textual analysis, like many other traditional degrees? And how much does Mr Ferguson know about the subject anyway? I can only assume very little, by his belief that he would be qualified to teach it by writing a newspaper column.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MARLEY  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire  
2 January  
The writer is a De Montfort University media studies student.

From Mr E. David Le Cren

Sir: Does Niall Ferguson's article mean that the traditional university is on the way out? The university, as a community of scholars devoted primarily to original research and creative intellectual activity and to teaching students how to think critically and rigorously, must surely be one of the major achievements of the millennium. Is it now to become another victim of market forces, "Thatcherism" and short-term expediency?

Yours faithfully,  
E. DAVID LE CREN  
Appleby, Cumbria

### French 'pop', UK nostalgia

From Mr Marc Francis

Sir: Bryan Appleyard's article "Blame it all on the Beatles" (2 January) was a classic example of the insular misinterpretation that gives the UK a bad name in the European Union. Mr Appleyard criticises the French government for imposing a quota to ensure that 40 per cent of music radio output is French "pop". But the point he makes about the "draconian and sadistic measure" taken by the French government is misguided because the percentage of trashy popular music in France is nowhere near the 100 per cent mark. He has obviously never listened to Francis Cabrel, Rita Mitsouko, Mano Negra, Les Innocents and many others.

This article is a criticism of French cultural politics, and the use of pop music as a vehicle to make the point is opportunistic and inaccurate. The inference that can be made about the Beatles initiating the process of globalisation because of their massive appeal, while failing to secure a patent on the phenomenon, is that Mr Appleyard is mourning the demise of the Empire (a British disease that is widespread and counter-productive).

The Beatles were great because, unlike the Stones, they did not attempt the impossibility of making their band live for ever. Pop music is at its best a denunciation of society's unhealthy restrictions on youth. It is a provocative means of carving out the hypocrisy and showing the truth to the developing mind.

This is difficult to do if you are a 40-plus, extremely wealthy and established pop group (the league table published late last year in the *Independent* and headed by Phil Collins shows all the guilty artists). By the same token, it is difficult to criticise if you are a successful middle-aged writer.

Yours faithfully,  
MARC FRANCIS  
Belgium

### A plague on us

From Dr Frank Furedi

Sir: Helen Wilkinson's perceptive account of the growing attraction of the status of victimhood for men and other groups in society (2 January) raises wider questions about contemporary political culture. If we are not the victims of the National Lottery, then it is only a matter of time before BSE will strike us down. Life has become a plague of abuses. From child to elderly abuse – we are victims of circumstances beyond our control. Naturally, everyone is in need of some form of counselling.

The very breadth of this celebration of passivity suggests that what is at stake is a process that goes way beyond recent changes in gender roles. The fear of tackling problems leads society to the sort of evasions that revel in victimhood. It is a political culture that offers helplessness, "self-help" groups and therapy instead of alternatives. The problem is not the crisis of masculinity but a diminished humanity.

Yours,  
FRANK FUREDI  
Department of Sociology  
University of Kent  
Canterbury

Post letters to *Letters to the Editor*, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Alcoholic accidents

From Mr Graham Allen, MP

Sir: The news that drink-drivers have been blamed for 1,000 crashes over the Christmas/New Year period may not reveal the full extent of the problem, because the figure is based only on the current legal blood alcohol levels.

The British Medical Association has put forward a strong case that this legal blood alcohol limit is dangerously high and should be reduced to 50mg/100ml, because the risk of becoming involved in a drinking and driving accident greatly increases beyond this point. Unfortunately, the Government has ruled out even reassessing the current levels. Labour believes that it is time to review the drink/drive limits in view of genuine safety concerns.

On 27 December, we received another redirected package, and out popped our friendly card with all its cryptic messages, having now travelled 1,500 miles further than its original journey.

Is this friendly little greetings card destined, like a spacecraft thrown off course, to travel forever in the mailing system going round and round and round?

Yours sincerely,  
GRAHAM ALLEN  
MP for Nottingham North (Lab)  
House of Commons  
London, SW1  
2 February  
The writer is Shadow Minister for Transport.

### School ties

From The Rev Richard Schofield  
Sir: Professor James Meade (Obituaries, 29 December) was my contemporary at Malvern College, a school of which some Oxford academics had never heard. Bullying was endemic and accepted by the headmaster as a means to manliness. Meade used to be tied up in a carpet.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD SCHOFIELD  
Ipswich, Suffolk

### Lottery losers

From Mr Conrad Payne  
Sir: In order to inject some sanity into the nation's punters ("Record jackpot sparks fears of lottery chaos", 2 January), myself included, perhaps Camelot should be encouraged to publish all the losing number combinations as well as the winning one.

Yours sincerely,  
CONRAD PAYNE  
Haddenham, Cambridgeshire  
2 January



# Dealing with the IRA's terminators

Major must not be deflected from the path to peace by drugs vigilantes or parliamentary arithmetic

There are more ways than one to challenge the authority of the state. You can, for instance, pull on a balaclava, saunter into a bar, or lean across a car, and shoot a suspected drugs dealer or two. By killing them, the IRA isn't simply acting as a neighbourhood watch: it is arrogating to itself the rights of trial, judgment and punishment. It is celebrating its own authority.

Because the IRA is not a liberal organisation, and most people are not natural liberals either, there will be some confusion about the morality of these killings.

Although Ulster Unionists and British ministers are treating the deaths as a threat to the Irish peace process, they don't instantly seem like a threat to anything at all except the drugs trade. It is rough justice, many will think. But most voters are, like the IRA, firmly in favour of the death penalty, and they loathe drugs dealers. These are unpleasant sentiments to admit after such murders, perhaps; but they are very widespread and need to be dealt with.

When Northern Irish eyes look south and see a drugs dealer in Dublin which they fear and despise, they are being clear-sighted, not bigoted. For Dublin has a serious heroin problem, which has driven people there to desperation.

It was brilliantly summed up in "Whacker Humphries", a protest song by Christy Moore, in which the singer defended a flower seller who, though no angel himself, was not disgusted by the open selling of heroin that he helped to form a group called Con-

cerned Parents Against Drugs. This organised street patrols and vigilantes to protect inner-city Dublin neighbourhoods. Or, as Moore sings, "They called on dealers' houses and ordered them to quit/Time and time again they warned, we've had enough of it..."

Junkies weren't shot, but warned they would be "moved out". For a while, over a decade ago, the patrols had some success, though as Moore laments, Whacker Humphries eventually served a short prison sentence (for evicting an inner-city dealer with the splendidly Chicagoan name of Ma Baker). And now? Now the street patrols have gone and things are even worse.

The Dublin comparison matters for two reasons. First, it is a useful reminder of how desperate people feel about the dealing of hard drugs in areas where the state seems unable to step in. If few take the law into their own hands, many more wish someone else would. How many inner-city Britons, told that a vigilante group had been formed to deal with local junkies, or that a notorious dealer had been summarily executed, would privately cheer?

Thus the IRA, arch-enemy of popular opinion, is, on the issue of drugs dealers, merely acting out the "string 'em up" instincts of its critics. On some questions, the IRA commander and the archetypal London cabbie are in deep, if illiberal, accord.

Indeed, these are widely-held instincts everywhere, people lap up the vengeful morality tales that star Schwarzenegger and Clint Eastwood blasting anti-social elements to pieces. If all communities contained the kind



ANDREW MARR

The IRA is acting out the 'string 'em up' instincts of its critics

of heavily armed and socially conservative gangs that Belfast boasts, who knows what would happen to the local retail outlets of the Colombian cartels? Politicians call loosely for a war against drugs; now they know what a real one would look like.

This, in essence, is why the southern capital has such a heroin crisis while Belfast doesn't - some 5,400 addicts, against just 23 registered heroin abusers in the northern city. It isn't because the people of Northern Ireland are abnormally moralistic and intolerant of drugs - Dublin's Catholics are just as traditionalist in these matters. The real answer is simply that Belfast's terrorists control their host communities far more effectively than the legally restricted police can do.

Having acknowledged that, we need to turn to the IRA's motivation, which is at least triple-layered. There is first (and least important) the puritanism of any revolutionary organisation.

These guys really don't approve of drugs, which dull the minds of Catholic youth and turn them away from a fervent concentration on British oppression. Just as heroin is the ultimate denial of the world of work, pensions, relationships and personal progress - so it is also the ultimate rejection of politics and rebellion. These days, the opium of the people is opium.

Second, there is the need of the IRA to reassert its authority during a long ceasefire which may, or may not, lead to a peace agreement. It cannot survive unless it has the fear and respect of working-class Catholics. These are given because of its ability and willingness to act violently - if not against British troops, then against "social parasites". Just as primitive states worried their authority would be undermined without regular and violent expressions of their powers, so the IRA acts now. Shootings and punishment hearings are the solemn Tyburn of the Republican revolutionaries.

Third, and connected to this, is the IRA's message to outsiders that it is still armed and ready - and is becoming impatient with the refusal of the other parties to allow Sinn Féin to participate in talks. There has been a lot of hysteria about the message. But it is probably regarded by the IRA as a comparatively mild one.

Had it really lurching out of political control, as John Taylor, the Ulster Unionists' deputy leader, alleges, then it would have broken the peace accord properly, and killed some politicians or RUC men. But in a grisly way, it reckons that the deaths of drugs dealers are a lesser thing, merely a sign of

irritation, and will be taken by the authorities as such. And in a grisly way, it is quite right.

Yet this is a dangerous game for the IRA, as for its victims. It cannot for long use Catholic civilians as target practice. There is evidence that it is already running out of credible big-time villains. The latest man to die was not by anyone's reckoning an important player; there must come a point when even the least squeamish, least liberal local onlooker thinks the gunmen are going too far.

What comes next? The murder of teenage joyriders? The machine-gunning of tinsle-headed shoplifters? The further extempore gun law is extended, the more people will eventually revolt against it and conclude that for all its faults and failures, legalistic and political solutions are better. This, after all, is the story of political progress across the world. It is why millions of natural liberals have nevertheless eventually organised themselves into liberal parties.

John Major has a duty now, as before, to make it as easy as humanly possible for republicanism to find a political role in a liberal state. The Commons majority suggests that he ought to feel intimidated by the Unionist demand that he break links with Sinn Féin. But that would be the worst reaction. This long, slow and dangerous uptoe towards a more decent Northern Ireland is the greatest thing he has half-achieved. Flinching now because of parliamentary arithmetic would betray not just himself, but the very democracy he is trying to promote. And even drugs dealers deserve a better memorial than that.

## Roll up for the great rollover

As punters dream of a jackpot, William Hartston looks at the odds on pulling off a lottery coup

Forty million pounds eh? That must be worth a small flutter. The renewed outbreak of lottery fever this week, thanks to the double rollover and promise of the biggest jackpot ever, shows that our nation of gamblers has again fallen for the lure of a gigantic crock of gold. Now there are reports of syndicates mounting military-style operations to buy all 14 million combinations of numbers to ensure they scoop the jackpot.

It has been done in other countries. It's just a question of waiting until the prize becomes big enough, backing every possible combination, and you cannot fail to win. A reporter from the *Daily Star* even claimed to have had Barings Bank thinking for half an hour over his request for a £14m loan to finance his sure-fire lottery coup. Yet Barings was quite right to turn him down. Considerably less than half-an-hour's thought is needed to realise that the gamble is still a bad one, even if you could find an army of friendly local newsmen with the time to process 14 million lottery tickets for you.

The problem is that you will probably have to share the top prize with other winners - more other winners than is financially comfortable. In an average week on the lottery, 65 million tickets are sold. With only 13,983,816 different ways of picking six numbers from 49, each combination will be subscribed an average of 4.6 times, which is therefore the average number of people expected to have to share the dividend.

This week, however, we are told to expect sales of 115 million tickets, which works out at an average of more than eight to each possible combination. And £40m shared among eight is a measly 5 million quid each. Ah yes, but it's not only the top prize we'll win, is it? Our 14 million tickets will reap plenty of other dividends, too. All the other dividends, in fact. We'll win six prizes of five numbers plus the bonus, and thousands of the lower dividends.

But all that still does not add up to your investment. Of the £115m spent on tickets, half goes into prizes. Of that half, 52 per cent is earmarked for the jackpot, which leaves a return on investment of just 24 per cent from the non-jackpot prizes. So your total return is your £5m share of the top prize, plus 24 per cent of your £13,983,816 investment - which adds up to less than £8.4m. That figure may be boosted

a little by the guaranteed £11 prizes that are independent of the number of tickets sold, but your syndicate still stands to make a considerable loss. And that's not counting the tax bill since you have eliminated a risk from the flutter, the Inland Revenue might decide to treat your prize as investment income.

Similar coups have been successful in Australian and American state lotteries, and in Ireland - but all of these locations have considerably fewer overall ticket sales, and thus less likelihood of having to share the jackpot with too many other punters.

There is, however, one strategy that guarantees lottery success. A very clear pattern has emerged in the number of people sharing the jackpot each week. The largest numbers of winners occur when the six numbers are well spread. The weeks when nobody wins at all have been those where two or three of the winning numbers have been close together. The first ever rollover had 29 and 30; the next had 21, 22, 25, the third had 41, 42, 44 and so on. People aren't betting on birth-

days, or numbers with seven in them as was originally claimed. They are betting on superficial randomness. So all you have to do is buy your tickets only in rollover weeks, when the jackpot is sure to be more than £20m, and select a batch of closely grouped numbers. Every 14 million weeks, or so, you will win £20m and will not have to share it with anyone.

Since you will also have picked up around £3.5m in smaller prizes, it all adds up to a 68 per cent return on your investment. The only trouble is that if you buy just one ticket a week, it would take half a million years before you could expect to move into profit.

But if 100,000 of us were to get together in a syndicate and bet on all the unpopular, closely grouped combinations, we'd make a killing by the turn of the millennium. Unless, of course, somebody else had the same idea.

## Check out the change in store

Supermarkets have brought about one food revolution. What does the future hold for shoppers?

If you are not aware that J Sainsbury is making dramatic cuts in the prices of 200 goods you have not been reading the newspapers; big double-page adverts are shouting that items such as an anti-perspirant or a low-fat fool will be two for the price of one this month.

Now of course in one sense this is just another version of the January sales applied to the grocery business. And we all know that supermarkets do not offer low prices out of the goodness of their hearts; they offer them because they want to pack in the punters - and then make the profit by selling them something else.

But I believe the Sainsbury's campaign is also symptomatic of bigger changes in the industry, in which the



Packing them in: the January sales come to groceries at Sainsbury's

Photograph: Brian Harris



HAMISH MCRAE

supermarkets are learning to live in a world where prices are stable and consumers far more sensitive to variations in them.

We have the most powerful supermarkets in the world, dominating our lifestyle and culture in an unparalleled way. They are unusual in three main ways. They earn higher margins on food than any others; the top three (Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda) control a higher proportion of sales than the top three in any other country; and they sell a higher proportion of own-label products and fresh prepared foods than elsewhere.

These three distinctive features are interlinked, though the precise nature of the links is hotly disputed. The high gross profit margins must to some extent be associated with concentration, though the chains understandably enough deny that they exploit their oligopoly power. They argue that the main reason their mark-ups are higher than in the US is because of their extra costs: higher land prices and planning controls make the building of new supermarkets more expensive.

Planning controls probably have encouraged concentration, but I suspect that the really important reason both for concentration and for fat margins is the third feature: the astonishing level and sophistication of product development that our supermarkets now carry out, particularly in own-label and fresh foods.

Think about it. If you are simply

selling branded products from other manufacturers - Heinz tomato soup or Nescafé, to take two of the products on the Sainsbury 200 list - all you are selling on is price. You add nothing to the brand name, except to sell it in pleasant and convenient surroundings. So you make the serious money by doing things other people cannot. We have long had a tradition here of up-market own-label products, whereas in the US until recently these were rather tacky imitations of branded lines. The advantage of own-label is that stores can experiment, testing new products directly on customers and seeing which lines sell, rather than relying on which lines sell, rather than relying on the marketing departments of some distant food manufacturer. The result of this has been that product development has become customer-led, rather than producer-led.

The outstanding genius in product development was not one of the regular supermarketiers but Marks & Spencer. If the food-writer Elizabeth David transformed the way middle-class, cooking Britons cooked, M&S has transformed the way non-cooking Brits eat. Americans visiting M&S food stores are astonished at the variety and sophistication of the prepared foods on sale. We regard this as normal; actually there is nothing quite like it in the world.

Americans are also astonished by the prices, which pitch closer to a restaurant meal than to regular unprepared food. But it works: people pay. Once it became clear that M&S was making a fortune out of high-quality fresh food, the supermarkets followed, with the results we see all about us. There has been, for perhaps the past

15 years, a relentless, almost frantic search for new and more exciting ways to persuade us to spend money on yet more exotic food.

We are now, I think, nearing the end of this phase - let's call it the kiwi-fruit period. I cannot prove it, but I suspect that the Great British Shopper is beginning to tire of endless innovation and to prefer straightforward good quality at the lowest possible cost.

As the population ages, expect this revolt to gather pace. And as inflation disappears expect much more emphasis on price, for people will get used to the idea of certain items always costing the same, known amount. Price-cutting by the mainline chains, either in the form of January sales or continuous low prices on a handful of popular lines, is one response. But it is not the only possible

response. Another, as we have seen over the past year, is the loyalty card, pioneered by Sainsbury's great rival Tesco.

The genius here is not so much that by giving a discount to regular shoppers you persuade people to switch to your stores. Rather it is that if you chart a regular shopper's weekly purchases, you can build a picture of their entire lives: how much and what they drink, the rough age of their children, what their pets like to eat (or rather what the owners think their pets like to eat), whether the goldfish has died.

So there are perhaps two candidates for successors to the kiwi-fruit period. One might be dubbed "Victorian values" - straightforward emphasis on quality at the best price. This might

seem slightly staid, but it could be tailored to the day-to-day concerns of an ageing population: healthy food grown for taste rather than show, meat from animals treated with decency and dispatched with dignity, non-polluting products (witness Sainsbury's clean diesel fuel), and so on.

The other candidate might be called "know thy customer" - supermarkets which have so much information about their shoppers that they are able to tailor products very closely to their observed choices. The more a stores group knows about its customers, the easier it can cross-sell other products, perhaps with higher mark-ups. So young families can be sold life assurance or pension plans, gardeners new garden kit, students new bank accounts. We cannot know how the pattern of retailing will develop over the next generation. We operate now on a system developed in the US in the 1950s, when quite suddenly the developed world moved from a daily shop in different places to a weekly or even monthly one in a single place. A combination of women working, the car and the supermarket trolley made this possible.

Maybe the present supermarket system will continue for another couple of generations. Or maybe something more radical will happen and "know thy customer" will lead to an even more profound shift than the supermarket revolution itself. But that is a long way from two tins of beans for the price of one.

Americans are amazed at the food in M&S; there is nothing like it in the world

### ANOTHER VIEW John Swift

## A railway attractive and accessible to all

The January *Which?* report has received a lot of publicity. As the independent Rail Regulator, I am naturally concerned with its results. Let me explain how I have been seeking to improve the accuracy of information supplied to passengers, which is a necessary basis for the operation of an efficient railway in which passengers are entitled to the exercise of choice between competing operators and services.

The new railway structure marks a radical change from the old monopoly. In the new railway, passenger train companies have the opportunity to

market their services independently of each other. Passengers should have much more choice about how to arrive at their destinations and about fares. That is the result of the introduction of competition. But operators must also work in co-operation with each other. That is to secure the maintenance of network benefits. And passenger expectations are higher, and rightly so. In July 1995, I approved new rules, as part of the new structure, that require every passenger train operator to provide impartial information about the fares and timetables offered by all train operators. In effect, it was

turning every staffed ticket office into an "independent" travel agent.

Giving passengers more choice means that operators will have to explain the options clearly and impartially; passengers will also have to be clear about what matters most to them: is the cheapest fare, possibly involving a longer journey and several changes, more important than speed and frequency? Establishing what really meets passengers' needs best is critical.

I could not demand the introduction of a new national train information service to replace the existing sys-

tem overnight. I had to work with what we had. And I gave the operators until 22 October before the rules on impartial selling came into force. This gave operators a chance to train their staff - a programme that was not completed when the *Which?* survey was carried out. I monitored it in November. I received the findings just before Christmas. On the "lowest fares" question, one out of five answers was wrong. That tells me further improvements must be carried out throughout the network. Moreover, I have required all operators to reach new standards of performance

in the case of telephone inquiry bureaux. These are all part of the new structure to produce an improved railway - both opportunities and controls. If the rules are broken, if operators are not doing what their competitors require them to do, I shall not hesitate in enforcing the terms of the relevant licence. But that is a last resort. My expectation is that mutual interest in the supply of accurate information to passengers, using up-to-date technology, will make the railway more accessible and attractive to all.

The writer is the Rail Regulator.

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Victoria		
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**COMMENT**

'If Lord Callaghan and his colleagues on the Council decide not to sell to Granada, the bid is finished regardless of the views of other shareholders'

## Council of Forte faces uncomfortable decisions

That august body, the Council of Forte, may, after all, be forced to determine the outcome of the bitter £3.2bn battle for control of Forte. After taking advice, tested in the courts, the Council finds itself in the uncomfortable position of having to exercise its powers which give it a tiny fraction of the company's capital more than 50 per cent of the voting rights. There is, it is understood, no possibility of the Council standing aside and allowing other shareholders to decide, as happened in the last assault on Forte. What this means is that if Lord Callaghan and his colleagues on the Council decide not to sell to Granada, the bid is finished regardless of the views of other shareholders.

So far the stock market appears not fully to have appreciated this. Plainly, the Council's position is a ridiculous and indefensible one. Other Forte shareholders are certain to find the idea that an institution with less than one per cent of the shares is in a position to overrule their collective power completely unacceptable. Unfortunately for them it can, and unless Granada comes up with a very substantial premium for the Council's shares, it fully intends to. Council members no doubt share the common sense view that the majority should decide, but the fact of the matter is that they have no legal duty to other shareholders.

The Council's origins lie deep in the temperance roots of the old Trusthouse chain of hotels. Its purpose was to ensure that the

hotels sold food, as well as more lucrative booze, for the hungry traveller. Such powers of enforcement are rarely needed these days but the Council has a parallel duty as a charitable trust. In bid situations, there is a fiduciary duty to get the best possible price. Since the Council has control, its shares should command a massive premium over the price being offered to others, is the advice that has been given. The Council meets tomorrow to decide what that premium should be.

The Takeover Panel has little guidance to offer in such circumstances. Where there are two classes of share, the two offers are meant to be comparable; the premium offered on one class of share should be no more than the premium at which they were trading before the bid. The comparability rule provides no help in this case, however, since the Council's shares have never traded and no value has therefore been put on its controlling position.

So what's it worth? More than £300m according to the most hawkish view since that would represent half the 20 per cent premium Granada is offering for control. That's quite something for a stake nominally worth less than £3m and is plainly a non starter. The Council may nonetheless feel obliged to go for a sum which adds significantly to Granada's bid costs.

Council members must be hoping that Gerry Robinson does what many commentators are urging him to and withdraws

gracefully. Otherwise the unprecedented position they find themselves in could turn into a rather embarrassing one.

### Competing for a slice of £20bn

More than two million people must decide within the next few months what to do with the savings and tax-free interest accumulated over the last five years in Tessa accounts. Something like £20bn is available for reinvestment and redeployment; the competition for a slice of this is the nearest thing the UK has yet seen to a full-blown price war in the market for savings.

Inertia favours the Tessa providers, who have been trying to persuade holders to roll their capital forward into a new Tessa. Typically, Tessa investors are traditional savers, most at home with banks and building societies. Relatively few are comfortable with the idea of taking risk. Most have learned to be suspicious of financial salesmen and the commissions and management charges levied. To all but highly performing funds, investment returns are significantly reduced.

Even so, the biggest challenge to Tessa comes from Personal Equity Plans, which offer tax-free investment with the prospect of better returns and some risk. Six months ago it looked as if the main competitor would be corporate bond funds held in Peps. They offer returns of up to 8 per cent com-

bined with a moderate risk of capital profit or loss. But many providers charge a fee to join, a fee to exit the fund and an annual management charge, all of which significantly reduces the return.

Now it looks as if the main challenge will be from Peps invested in shares, and specifically shares which track the performance of the stock market as a whole. Tracker funds are cheap to run because they need fewer analysts and managers.

Recognising this, Fidelity, the American-owned investment group, has just launched a new fund on which there is no entry charge, no exit charge and the annual charge is just 0.5 per cent. Legal & General has replied by trimming its own charge to equal Fidelity, and Virgin has indicated it will shortly follow suit. Future investment performance cannot be guaranteed. But over the last few years trackers have performed better than most managed unit trusts. Low-charging trackers look like becoming the all too bleak future for many fund managers. Good ows for us though.

### Tax changes that cut no ice

Labour calls it a tax bombshell, pointing to a hidden tax hike of £850m. The government pretexts it as part of a modernising drive to simplify the tax system which will help the self-employed. Both are firing

off target - but it is hard to see how the self-employed stand to benefit from the introduction of self-assessment and the associated shift in the basis of assessment of tax liability from previous to current year.

One interpretation of the changes is mistaken; thanks to cushioning transitional arrangements, the self-employed will not have to pay two years' tax in one. However, the new regime will undoubtedly yield more income for the Inland Revenue, since the self-employed will no longer be years in arrears. This accounts for at least part of the £850m increment in revenue; the rest will be paid only if the self-employed businesses turn out to grow in profitability as much as the Treasury hopes.

Set against the blow of having to pay tax on the nail are alleged gains from simplifying the tax system. Some hope. One leading firm of accountants, Ernst & Young, has already called for the countdown to current year assessment for the self-employed to be halted. Philip Davis, their expert on self-assessment, says that the ows system is no simpler than the previous one.

The administrative convenience may impress ministers but is unlikely to cut much ice among the ranks of the self-employed whose interests they claim to hold so dear. On the other hand, Labour's campaign would be less self-serving if it pledged to revert to the previous system of assessment in arrears - something on which it remains conspicuously silent. Surprise, surprise.

Forte battle: Bidder prepares to be specific about its promises as share registers reveal cross-holdings

## Granada details £100m savings

MATHEW HORSMAN and JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada is poised to bury Forte's management in an avalanche of detailed promises on how it intends to run the hotels and restaurant company, as part of a last-ditch effort to win its £3.3bn hostile bid.

The detailed breakdown of Granada's promised £100m in savings shows how Granada intends to achieve half that amount through rebranding, higher room rates and reworked restaurant menus. The rest will come from head-office savings and centralised purchasing.

The figures, to be released by Granada next week, are likely to be accompanied by a sweetened offer - although analysts differ

### The Forte stakes

Institution	% held
Mercury Asset Mgt	13.23
Garmore	2.92
Prudential	2.86
Capital Group	2.76
Legal & General	2.29
Baring	2.29
Standard Life	2.28
BZWIM	1.92
Hermes	1.89
Robert Fleming	1.78
Total	34.22

Source: Shareholder register  
December 1995

Performance of Forte's main hotel branches			
EXCLUSIVE HOTELS BY FORTE	FORTE Heritage	FORTE MERIDIEN	FORTE Posthouse
Number of hotels owned: 11	Number of hotels owned: 11	Number of hotels owned: 11	Number of hotels owned: 11
Rooms available: 1,100	Rooms available: 1,100	Rooms available: 1,100	Rooms available: 1,100
Rooms occupied: 1,100	Rooms occupied: 1,100	Rooms occupied: 1,100	Rooms occupied: 1,100
Revenue: £11m	Revenue: £11m	Revenue: £11m	Revenue: £11m
Operating profit: £1.1m	Operating profit: £1.1m	Operating profit: £1.1m	Operating profit: £1.1m
Net profit: £1.1m	Net profit: £1.1m	Net profit: £1.1m	Net profit: £1.1m

on how much higher Granada will go. Charles Allen, Granada's chief operating officer, declined to comment on the breakdown, saying it would be unveiled next Monday or Tuesday.

The fresh details emerged as the powerful Council of Forte, which owns less than 1 per cent of Forte's shares but controls 50 per cent of the votes, met with advisers from both sides yesterday. A spokesman for the council said: "No conclusions have been reached and we are continuing discussions with both parties."

Sir Rocco Forte with Keith Hannell, finance director, and Richard Power, public affairs director who was promoted to the main board on Tuesday, yesterday hosted a two-hour briefing for 50 leisure analysts from stockbroking firms and other leading City institutions. Forte told analysts that oc-

cupancy levels in hotels in all of Forte's main brands - Exclusive, Meridien, Posthouse and Heritage - are high and in many instances are well above the market average.

To support its controversial claim of £100m in annual savings, Granada has prepared a segment-by-segment analysis of Forte's main businesses, detailing precisely how much will be spent refurbishing the Little Chef and Happy Eater restaurants, which Forte has agreed to sell to Whitbread as part of its defence strategy.

Just under 100 Little Chef sites are earmarked for transformation into fast-food outlets, while another 17 will get immediate refurbishment. The company intends to spend about £250,000 on each new fast-food outlet, and about £50,000 on the remaining sites. Some of the 420 Little Chef and

Happy Eaters could be sold off. The restaurant business is also to get "re-engineered menus", with old-fashioned items dropped, new products introduced and more expensive, lower-margin ingredients moved. Granada expects to be able to improve margins by 3 percentage points through these measures. On the hotels front, the rebranding of the Posthouse and Crest properties into a single upper mid-market chain will allow higher room rates, Granada will argue.

Travelodge rates will also be raised by at least £5 a night, increasing to about £10 more a night for business travellers. Forte currently charges a flat £34.50 at many of its budget hotels. By effectively doing away with Forte's head office, and reducing the number of operating units from 12 to just three, it will argue that it can save at least

£24m a year, the amount by which Forte claims it can enhance profits under its own savings plan. If the Granada bid succeeds, total food and beverage supplies would cost about £20m a year, made up of £180m for the Granada operations and £150m for Forte (not counting the motorway services business that Granada intends to sell).

Granada will argue that it could achieve discounts of up to 10 per cent on its bulk purchases by dealing with fewer suppliers and limiting the independence of line managers to reach their own supply deals. The savings could reach as much as £25m a year, Granada will claim.

There were heavy dealings in Forte and Granada shares yesterday. One dealer said Americans were buying shares in Granada, up 75p to 649.5p, in the belief that its bid will fail. Forte shares closed unchanged at 343p.

### City firms that hold the key

A new analysis of the latest available share registers of Granada and Forte highlights a potentially novel twist to the takeover bid, writes John Shepherd.

The lists also provide plenty of fuel for debate among fund management teams in City institutions. For the analysis shows that Forte and Granada have 87 common institutional shareholders, controlling 62.66 per cent of Forte's shares.

The largest dual shareholder is Mercury Asset Management with 14.41 per cent of Granada and 13.23 per cent of Forte. Without Mercury's holding, the potential power of the other 86 institutions is reduced to 49.31 per cent control over Forte's fate. By far the most unusual cross-holding is Pilkington. One can only wonder if the fund manager goes by the name of James Bond since the holding in both companies is 0.07 per cent.

With such a large total cross-shareholding it is little wonder that Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, and his teams of advisers have spent a considerable amount of time over the last six weeks visiting and revisiting institutions the length and breadth of the British Isles.

The question for the institutions is: will they allow individuals a free vote on the bid or impose a strict house policy? The latter is more common.

### IN BRIEF

#### Westinghouse sells defence business

Westinghouse Electric Corporation has agreed to sell its defence electronics business to Northrop Grumman in a deal worth \$3.6bn. The company said that the transaction would allow it to cover more than 65 per cent of the \$5.4bn it borrowed to pay for CBS. In December, Westinghouse raised \$565m with the sale of its Knoll Group subsidiary, a maker of office furniture.

The deal was welcomed on Wall Street, where Westinghouse's share price had risen a full point. Northrop will give Westinghouse \$3bn in cash for the defence electronics division, whose products include systems for command, control and electronic warfare. As a result, 45 per cent of Westinghouse sales will come from broad-based related activities.

#### Portillo in plea to Philippines

Michael Portillo, Defence Minister, called on the Philippines government to honour a £100m radar contract it cancelled with GEC-Marconi. Mr Portillo, in the Philippines on a three-day visit, said he had expressed concern to the government, which decided the contract was overpriced.

#### Watchdogs warn on Stock Exchange rules

Industry watchdogs have warned that they will stick to the spirit but not necessarily the letter of strict Stock Exchange guidelines, issued on Tuesday, on the handling of price-sensitive information on the companies they regulate.

Sources at some of the regulators said that while they had been fully consulted on the guidelines and were in agreement with them in principle, they had to have their own independent procedures. One said: "They are guidelines. They are not rules."

#### Prison for engineer who took bribes

The Serious Fraud Office secured a court victory yesterday when a Dutch marine engineer was sentenced to three years in prison after admitting taking £1.6m in bribes from a Singapore shipyard between January 1994 and May 1995. Van der Horst took the bribes for favouring Kappel shipyard in Singapore during the bidding process for ship repair contracts.

#### PIA recruits pensions deputy

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, has recruited Christopher Ham, former managing director of financial planning at Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, to be the deputy head of its pensions unit.

#### Production up in Germany

Industrial production in Germany rose 0.1 per cent in November, surprising economists who had expected it to decline for the fourth month in a row. Western German output was flat, while eastern German production staged a rebound of 1.7 per cent in the month.

However, overall output remained 2.7 per cent lower than a year earlier. Since the Bundesbank reduced its key discount rate last month, the weak output figures are not expected to point to further interest rate reductions.

#### Official reserves fall by \$348m

The UK's official reserves fell by \$348m in December. Adjusting for repayments of borrowing under the Exchange Cover Scheme and other public sector long-term debt repayments, the underlying decline was \$36m.

#### Free-for-all at Lloyds and TSB

Lloyds and TSB yesterday agreed to make their services, including all types of cash withdrawals and paying in of bills, free to each other's customers, as part of the completion of the merger between both banks. Until now, both banks charged up to £5 or 1.5 per cent of the withdrawal for each service.

## Ford to re-introduce Aston Martin in America

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Aston Martin sports cars, made famous by the James Bond spy movies, are to be introduced into America. Ford, the US giant which owns the Newport Pagnell company, unveiled the new Aston Martin DB7 at the Detroit Motor Show yesterday.

The 165mph vehicle will sell for about \$130,000 (£90,000) when it goes on sale in Britain this summer but UK enthusiasts are likely to have to wait while US buyers are given priority. David Price, executive chairman of Aston Martin Lagonda,

said he expects to sell about 200 of the exclusive car in the US market.

World-wide, Aston Martin expects to sell 700 cars in 1996, up from 610 in 1995.

To support the new car, the company plans to nearly double its US dealer network to 20 from 11. The firm expects to have close to 100 dealers worldwide by the end of 1996 as they target a new popularity among buyers for sports cars.

No major national US advertising campaigns are planned, although Aston Martin will advertise in its high

volume regions of the West Coast, Florida and the Northeast.

Aston Martin withdrew from the US market in 1993 because it became too costly to meet federal vehicle regulations. But the US is the world's single biggest market and it was only a matter of time before the company re-entered it.

Mr Price would not comment on Aston Martin's profitability, but said: "I should be walking around with a smile on my face in 1996."

Ford's chairman, Alex Trotman, said the automaker was

serious about its ownership of Aston Martin, which has fewer than 500 employees and has produced less than 13,000 cars in its 83-year history.

The left-hand drive DB7 Coupe and Volante come with a 3.2-litre, six-cylinder engine capable of a maximum speed of 165mph. The interior has Connolly leather and twin airbags.

Long the signature car of fictional spy James Bond, Aston Martin lost out to BMW in the most recent Bond movie, Goldeneye. In that film, Bond drives the new BMW Z3 convertible. Ford purchased 75 per cent

of Aston Martin Lagonda in 1987 and bought the remaining shares in 1994.

Meanwhile, Mr Trotman said Ford's operations in Europe will reverse recent losses and be "profitable" in 1996. "1996 will be a good year for the company," he said.

He said US sales in 1996 will rise to about 15.3 million, compared with an estimated 15 million in 1995. He was optimistic about the US economy, predicting "modest, sustainable" growth through the year, with low inflation and no significant chance of a recession.



Optimistic: Alex Trotman, chairman of Ford

**No FT, no comment.**

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## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Retail prospects look promising

After a tough 1995 on the high street when retailers were hit by a combination of unseasonable weather, fragile demand and tax cuts that failed to materialise, the prospects for 1996 look more promising. It could be a good year to invest in stores groups for a number of reasons.

Consumer spending should receive a boost from lower interest rates and tax cuts, which will increase disposable incomes. Then there is the £7bn flood of accumulated interest that will pour out of Tescos due to mature over the next few months. Although the original capital from Tescos can be reinvested, much of the interest is expected to find its way into the stores.

But retail analysts such as John Richards at NatWest Securities warn against expecting retailers to cash in on a mini-retail boom. Given the over-capacity on the high street, particularly in fashion, footwear and DIY, competition will remain fierce and margins tight.

It is also likely to be tougher to make money on the stock market in 1996 than it was last year when the FTSE rose by 20 per cent. Predictions for this year are for around 10 per cent growth. Investors need to be highly selective when making their choices for the year and as usual it is not so much a question of picking the sector as picking the stock.

In spite of the tough conditions last year, a number of retailers turned in spectacular performances with Next, Burton, Dixons and Argos leading the way. With the good news already in the price of most of these stocks, investors may have to look elsewhere for the best returns.

At the lowest end of the risk-reward equation, larger stocks such as Marks & Spencer and Great Universal Stores should do well though are unlikely to set any pulses racing. M&S shares underperformed the market last year - with a rise of just 13 per cent - but in a competitive market will always lead

the way. GUS is still a lumbering giant but has the added stimulus of a new chairman in Lord Wolfson, who has already helped David Jones rejuvenate Next.

This appointment may also add further sparks to Next shares which are likely to be buoyed by speculation about a GUS-Next merger.

Also tipped for strong gains this year is Storehouse, the BHs and Mothercare retailer which has improved margins and is now looking to add stores.

But to really maximise potential gains, investors who are prepared to take a risk need to identify those stocks that have underperformed but have the

potential to turn the corner. Both House of Fraser and Sears fall into this category although they come with a health warning attached. House of Fraser shares have been dogged by the stock overhangs caused by the hot summer and mild autumn. Management has introduced better controls which should improve performance.

At Sears, Liam Strong is now taking more radical action to prune the group's disparate array of brands.

Another set of possibilities rest on any recovery in Britain's moribund housing market. Wickes, the DIY retailer is due for a re-rating after the sale of its building materials business.

MFI also stands to gain from any signs of life in housing sales. Those to avoid include WH Smith, which has still to put last year's problems behind it.

## Bridon warns it's on the ropes

What is most alarming about yesterday's profits warning from Bridon, the wire and wire-rope producer, is the speed with which last August's bullish trading statement has been turned on its head. The fall in the shares from 119p to 104.5p confirmed the market's annoyance at stumping up £21.2m in a two-for-seven rights issue last summer at 135p.

Profits for the year to December just finished will now come in slightly under 1994's £4.8m before exceptional, well down on forecasts of £7m to £8m.

Price cutting by two main competitors in the US during the final quarter of the year forced Bridon to follow suit. Birkmyre, a non-core Australian textiles subsidiary continued to make losses. A major bridge contract was delayed and some deliveries were deferred into the current year. It is all a far cry the new beginning which the company heralded in 1993 after Mr Petersen was brought in to revitalise a heavily loss-making business. "We know what we have to do. We know how to do it. We will do it," trumpeted a glossy brochure outlining Bridon's plans.

All is not gloom, however, although investors would be right to treat with scepticism the company's claim that it is about to reap the benefits of an investment program, new production methods and the integration of Schalkes, the German heavy rope maker whose acquisition was funded by last year's cash call.

On forecast profits of £4.5m, the shares now stand on a p/e ratio in the high teens. A promised dividend of 4.4p provides some yield support, but the shares have a credibility gap to bridge. Unexciting.

## Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

## Sony goes to Soho with £250,000 in a suitcase

Here is one for you to ponder. What was Chris Dearing, head of Sony Entertainment UK, doing wandering round Soho just before Christmas with a suitcase full of £50 notes? For a moment it looked like a case for Inspector Knacker of the Yard. The suitcase contained £250,000 - hardly petty cash - and the colourful London district is not noted for its reputation as a banking centre.

It turns out (sadly) to be nothing more sinister than a routine payment to a trade creditor. Mr Dearing was visiting the Noel Street lair of Simons Palmer Denton Clemmow & Johnson, the creative creatures behind those surreal advertisements for Sony's play station. The ad people were due a performance bonus.

Apparently Simons Palmer etc were prepared to forgo part of their standard agency fee in return for a performance bonus.

Once the sales of play station sales hit pre-determined targets the bonus kicked in - just in time for Christmas. None of which explains why Mr Dearing chose to pay the fee in person and in cash.

Well, it's a good feeling to turn around Soho with quarter of a million about your person.

Day forty of the Forte bid ('raid so) and it falls to Keith Hamill. Forte's forty-something finance director to brief the City on the case for the defence. Mr Hamill began reciting from the cover of the defence document. "For hotels, for profit, for quality, for growth and for shareholder value."

"I would have liked to put four quid at the bottom," he added. "But the advisers wouldn't let me."

Denizens of Dulwich, the leafy London suburb (well in summer, anyway), report frenzied engineering activity over the Christmas break. BT squads arrived in force to probe and test and no expense was spared to rectify



Bill Gates, the man who owns 80 to 90 per cent of all the software on the planet, has been elaborating on his early sex life before he discovered everlasting happiness with his wife, Melinda. Before you get too excited, we are talking about a long-distance affair - albeit one that allowed the Microsoft boss to sow his wild (ish) chips.

"We spent a lot of time together on e-mail," he admits in next month's *Esquire* magazine. "And we figured out a way we could sort of go to the movies together. We'd find a film that was playing at about the same time in both our cities. We'd drive to our respective theatres, chatting on our cellular phones. We'd watch the movie, and on the way home we'd use our cellular phones again to discuss the show," he adds. "In future this sort of virtual dating will be better because the movie watching could be combined with a video conference."

And who said romance was dead?

Boleat had "accepted responsibility". "Each of the statements about me is inaccurate," storms Mr Boleat. "I did not accept responsibility."

The National Lottery can now be said to have invaded all walks of life. Even Britain's senior accountants are starting to play. After months of fighting a rear-guard action, one abacus artist last week finally bowed to the inevitable. Grudgingly filling in the ticket, he warned his family that the chances of winning were minimal - and even if they did win the begging letters would make life unbearable.

Saturday night round the TV and not one single number right. "Well we didn't win," pipes up one of the kids. "Do we start writing the begging letters now?"

Incensed at what he says is "inaccurate and misleading" evidence presented to the Nolan Committee on standards in public life, Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers, has taken the housing trust he used to chair to task. Circle 33 was the victim of a £2m repairs fraud in 1993 and its evidence to Nolan claims Mr

## BAT affiliate faces £192m fine threat

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

An Indian associate of British American Tobacco faces the elimination of its entire net worth if the Delhi government enforces a 7.99bn rupee (£192m) fine on the company for alleged tax evasion.

ITC, which is 32 per cent owned by BAT, is accused of failing to pay more than £150m of tax. If the penalty is enforced the

company may be forced to borrow the funds to pay it, possibly from BAT itself. Shares in the UK holding company shrugged off the threat yesterday, closing just 1p lower at 564p; analysts doubted whether ITC would be forced to pay the whole fine. The company, which denies wrongdoing, said it would appeal.

The tax evasion charge is the latest hitch in the relationship between ITC and BAT, which last year failed to have an out-

sider appointed to the Indian company's chair. Its views were overruled by a group of institutions backing the deputy chairman, Yogi Deveshwar.

One source close to the company said, however, that the appointment of Mr Deveshwar to the top job might have been a blessing. "Given his connections in Delhi, we will not be surprised if ITC manages to come out of the whole affair with little lost, if at all."

The ITC affair is the second time in as many days that BAT's Asian operations have caused controversy. Yesterday the company denied that it had gathered a group of senior executives to target China and other emerging markets. The company said that executives meeting in Hong Kong would be discussing BAT's new regional structure.

Attention has focused on BAT's interests in China and other developing markets be-

cause of the gap between the slowly declining tobacco markets of the West and the enormous growth potential in other markets that have only recently opened to foreign companies.

China is understood to have 450 million smokers, smoking 1,700 billion cigarettes a year of which foreign companies have a 4 per cent share. Sales in China are thought to have contributed between £200m and £300m to BAT's profits last year.

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## Take a car and five to France for £10 with THE INDEPENDENT and P&amp;O European Ferries

If, after the season of revels, you want to recuperate with a spot of French leave, you'll find it hard to beat our bargain break offer - a day trip to France with a car plus five passengers for just £10.

We have teamed up with P&O European Ferries to offer readers of The Independent a range of sailings departing from either Dover or Portsmouth which may be taken until April 2, 1996.

The Dover destination is Calais and the Portsmouth sailings will arrive at Cherbourg and Le Havre. Both towns are ideal for shopping, sight-seeing and gourmet eating and would make excellent bases for a short stay.

Day trip departures from Sunday to Fridays, until 15 February, 1996, cost £10 for a car and up to five passengers. Each extra passenger costs £1 and foot passengers also pay just £1.

Day trip departures from Portsmouth on Friday nights and Dover on Saturdays cost £20 for a car and up to five passengers. The cost of extra passengers and foot

passengers remains unchanged.

Sailings from 16 February up till 2nd April, 1996, are £10 per car and £1 per passenger or £20 per car and £1 per passenger for Saturday sailings from Dover or Friday night sailings from Portsmouth.

If you prefer to make an overnight stay in France, the cost of a 60-hour excursion is £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Extra passengers pay £4 each.

Friday night departures from Portsmouth and Saturday departures from Dover are subject to a £10 surcharge. These prices do not include accommodation.

To qualify for these bargain prices you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the six we are publishing this week. Today we are publishing token four and we will give full details of how to take advantage of this offer later this week.

Full terms and conditions of this daytrip offer will appear on the P&O European ferries Booking Request Form which will appear later this week. The of-

fers are subject to availability for tickets within the The Independent's readers allocation. A day return is defined as follows: Dover/Calais route, return departure must be before midnight on the day of departure. From Portsmouth, return departure must be within 24 hours of leaving the UK.



## Storm claims could reach £1bn

NIC CICUTTI

Storm damage throughout Scotland and the North-east of England in the past few days could lead to a flood of claims of up to £1bn against insurance companies, a leading firm of loss adjusters claimed yesterday.

The Balcombe Group, an insurance claims specialist, said it had been inundated by calls from large firms and households facing losses so far estimated at more than £500m.

The chief executive, Nick Balcombe, said: "We believe these estimates are on the conservative side. I have spent the last two days in Scotland and we were dealing with an unprecedented number of cases."

"Work in Scotland resumed a day after England, so the true scale of any damage, especially to commercial premises, will not be known for some time. I would not be surprised if it turns out to be the most expensive natural disaster in the UK."

Previous expensive claims against insurance companies range between £1.5bn from the October 1987 storms, to £195m after the February 1991 floods.

The Association of British

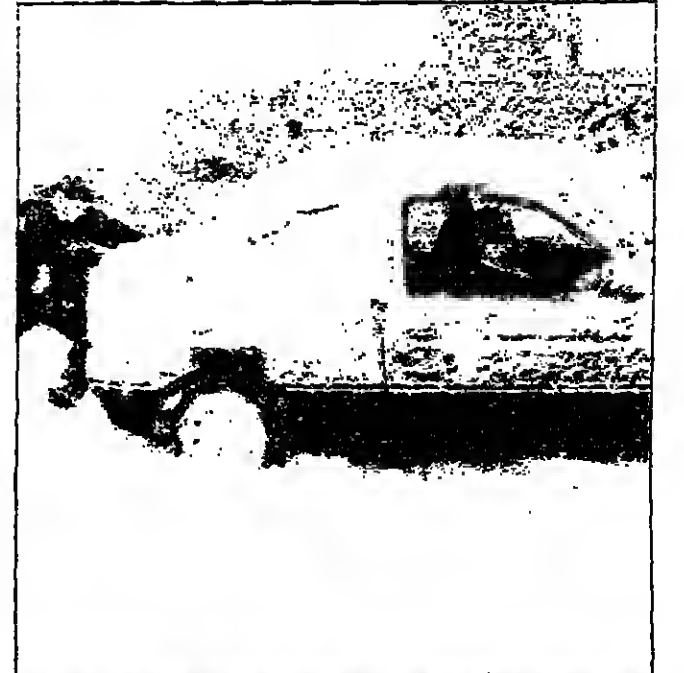
Insurers, the industry's trade body, said it was too soon to form a detailed picture of the extent of this year's claims. A more exact idea would probably emerge in a month's time. However, insurers were quick to play down the Balcombe Group's claims.

Commercial Union said: "We feel the damage will be substantially less than £500m. So far we have had 1,500 claims admitted, which really is not above the average."

"We did wonder whether it would be necessary to send special teams up to Scotland, but the information from our Scottish branches was that it was not necessary."

A Royal Insurance spokesman added: "We did open up on New Year's Day because we thought there would be a lot of people with problems. But the situation is unlikely to be as serious as past events, mainly because the damage has been localised mainly to Scotland, the North-east and the East Coast."

Paul Locke, marketing services manager at Eagle Star, said: "This is the sort of thing that we would have bargained for. This kind of event is not out



Northern exposure: Insurers are challenging claims that damage this year will rank alongside that of 1987's storms

of the ordinary and we would not expect it to have an affect on household insurance rates."

Mr Balcombe added: "We have been in this market for five

generations, covering all sorts of damage claims in recent years. I would not say that we are 100 per cent accurate, but we are generally pretty close."

## Thorn EMI buys US rental outlets

DAVID HELLIER

Thorn EMI, the music publisher, retail and rentals company, yesterday completed the acquisition of two Rent-A-Center franchise operations in the US.

Thorn Americas, the company's rental-purchase American subsidiary based in Wichita, Kansas, bought the stock of Advantage Companies Inc and Tidewater Rental Corporation for a total cash consideration of £65.7m.

Thorn Americas claims to be the largest rental-purchase operation in the US. Rental-purchase involves consumers renting goods initially. After a period the ownership reverts to the consumer.

Thorn started getting involved in rental-purchase when it acquired some of the Rent-A-Center stores in 1987. The stores rent out household goods, furniture, videos and computers.

The main core of the business is company-owned, although

there are also a proportion of franchised outlets.

Following these latest transactions Thorn now has 1,232 Rent-A-Center stores, of which 1,173 are company-owned and 59 franchised.

The latest deals are part of a continuing development of Thorn's rentals business, which will at some point this year become a separately quoted company if Sir Colin Southgate's plans to demerge the whole group come off. Under the plan, Thorn EMI will become two quoted companies, one mainly involved in the rentals business and the other essentially a music retailer and publisher under the EMI and HMV names.

The company said yesterday that the latest US transactions would have taken place regardless of the company's plan to demerge.

A spokesman said: "It is expected that the board will be in a position to reach and announce a decision [on the demerger] in the early part of this year."

## IN BRIEF

## Locker hits back at bid criticism

Thomas Locker, the engineering group involved in a £7.5m bid for the industrial drums maker Pentre, hit back at criticism from its largest shareholder that the deal is over-priced. John Carr, who owns 22 per cent of Locker and has been denied a seat on the board, was yesterday lobbying important shareholders ahead of an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday. He also objects to plans to enfranchise Locker's A shares.

## Glaxo in property deal

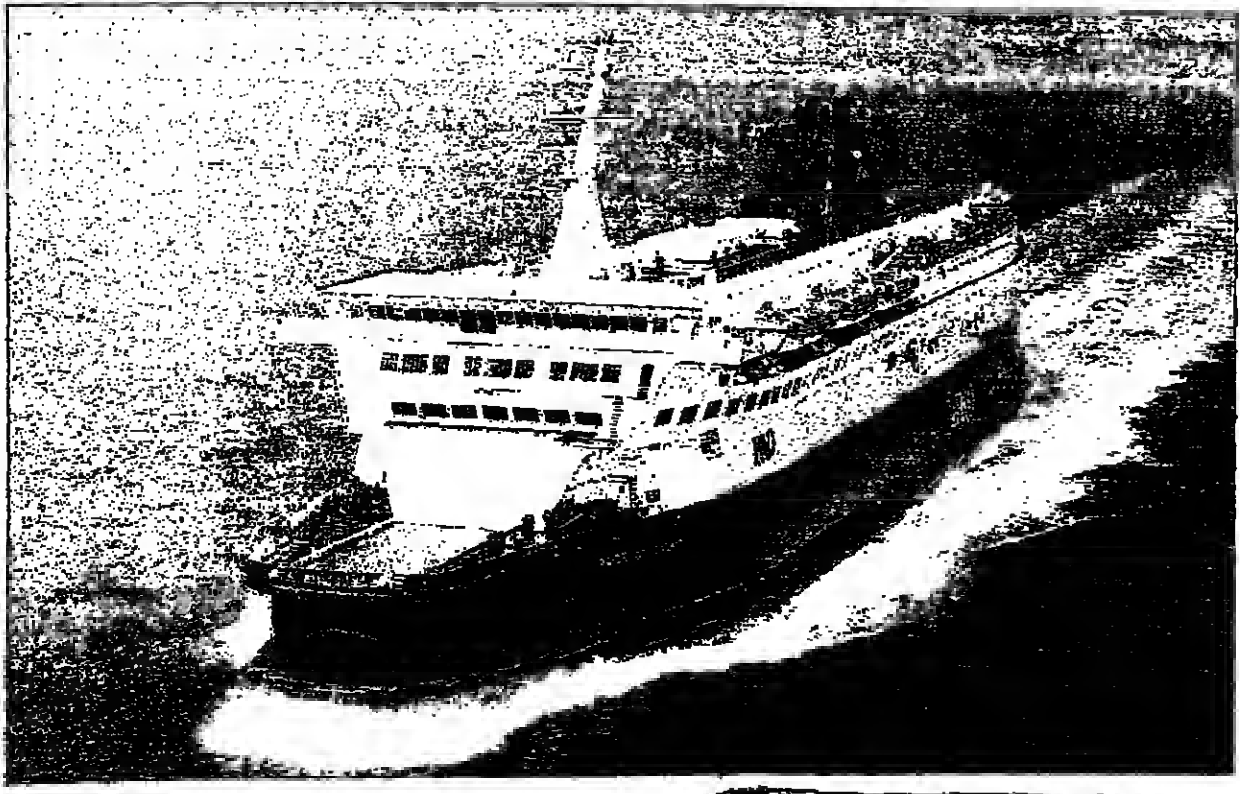
Clark Nickolls & Coombs, the Uxbridge-based property investment and management group, has exchanged contracts with Glaxo for the acquisition of one of the drugs giant's properties in Twickenham, London. Glaxo is taking £1.1m in cash and 5.56 million shares in Clarke, giving it just over 3 per cent of the property business's equity.

## Jacobs takes over Sally ferry route

Jacobs Holdings, through its shipping subsidiary Dart Line, has taken over operation of the Dartford to Vlissingen freight ferry route from Sally Line. The deal establishes a 50-50 pooling agreement on the route with Regie voor Maritiem Transport, the Belgian state shipping company.

## Pilkington wins £13m airport order

Pilkington has won a £13.5m order to supply 81,000 square metres of glass for the passenger terminal at the new airport being built at Chep Lap Kok in Hong Kong. The order is thought to be the world's largest for architectural glass and will be supplied by the group's German subsidiary, Flachglas.



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# market report/shares

TAKING STOCK

## Lengthy wait for insurance bid could soon be over

### DATA BANK

FT-SE 100  
3715.6+27.7  
FT-SE 250  
4053.9+17.0  
FT-SE 350  
1844.0+12.4  
SEAQ VOLUME  
734.9m shares,  
31,788 bargains  
Gilt Index  
95.28 -0.24

### SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



As shares surged to another peak, with the FT-SE100 index topping 3,700 points for the first time, the stock market was intrigued by talk that the long-suspected insurance take over bid was about to appear.

Refuge, the life and pensions group, emerged as the most likely candidate with Britannia also in the frame.

The rumours of an insurance hit have circulated for months with the giants of the industry, such as Legal & General and Royal Insurance, attracting much of the attention.

Talk of raids from the Continent have often mesmerised the market. And National Westminster Bank's recently inherited cash pile has added to the speculation. NatWest is seen in many quarters as a possible bidder for L&G, lured by the £36bn the insurance group has under management.

The hovering presence of predatory outsiders could also

inspire mergers among the insurers or defensive deals with other financial groups.

Refuge is one of the smaller quoted groups, valued at around £750m. Its largest shareholder is Britannia with 10.3 per cent. It is known to be in talks with the Department of Trade & Industry over its so-called "orphan" funds. A successful outcome of these talks could have a powerful influence on shareholder funds, and probably prompt sharp dividend increases.

In modest trading Refuge shares rose 19p to 474p; Britannia, valued at £1.5bn, gained 16p to 799p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett believe the shares are worth £10.

The excitement spread to other insurers with L&G up 6p to 678p; General Accident rose 17p to 659p; Prudential Corporation added 10p to 434p (a two day gain of 19p) and Royal 10p to 392p.



### MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

The market surged in early trading, inspired by New York's overnight performance. Then shares melted around waiting in hopeful anticipation of another upbeat Wall Street display. As soon as evidence of continuing US bullishness was forthcoming there was little doubt shares would end the session at a record high.

In the event the FT-SE 100 index closed 27.7 points higher at 3,715.6 after touching 3,719.8. Although the holiday continued to reduce attention trading was brisk with institutions prepared to take on some chunky lines of stock.

Heavy trading in National Grid, with Seaq putting volume

at 45 million, suggested another regional electricity company had sold at least part of its shareholding. The price rose 1.5p to 201p.

Lloyds TSB was another heavily traded with more than 70 million shares switching to Barclays, up 20p to 778p. Lloyds rose 6p to 325p. HSBC gained 20p to 1,027.5p. It has been chosen as the underlying stock for a new quoted instrument, Hyfers. Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull is behind this latest brainwave, an intriguing play on the dividend. The SGST scheme offers a 7.4 per cent yield compared with HSBC's historic 3.4 per cent.

Vodafone, off 5p at 221p, was busily traded following disappointment with its Christmas sales. In contrast, Northern Foods, said to be pleased with Christmas trading, gained 3p to 179p. Talk persists it is near to selling Fox's Biscuits.

Savoy Hotel was caught in the backlash of the Fort Granada confrontation. Forte's decision to hand its Savoy stake to its shareholders was seen as reducing the chance of a bidder tumbling sending the shares tumbling 108p to 940p. Ladbrokes, a mainstay firm, up 2p at 158p.

Insurance brokers Sedgwick and Willis Corroon edged forward on continuing speculation of a strike. Lloyd Thompson was back in the frame, up 13p to 183p, a two day gain of 16p.

Elsewhere Lloyds Chemists attracted renewed speculative attention, gaining 10p to 270p. ICI jumped 32p to 797p as James Capel, sellers for the

past three years, moved its recommendation to hold.

United Utilities, the North West Water/Norwich combination, continued to sink, off another 15p at 594p. Bridon, down 14.5p at 104.5p, was a day's profit warning casualty.

Amstrad continued to reflect the departure of its chief executive, off 7.5p to 189.5p. Builders were firm on continuing hopes that the housing market could start to improve. Barratt Developments rose 11p to 258p.

Zergo, the anti computer backing group, gained another 50p to 300p and Clarke Nickolls & Coombe, the property group, firmed to 8p. Forestry group, firmed to 3p. Richard Upton and Andrew Nedham with almost 30p. CNC has acquired a property in Twickenham, southwest London, for cash and shares, giving Glaxo Trustees a 3.2 per cent stake.

There is talk in the holiday business that Airtours is near to forging a link with Richard Branson's Virgin group. The word is that they are planning joint holiday deals, probably to the US and perhaps Australia and South Africa. At a time of over-capacity, when many operators have cut back, a Virgin deal could offer Airtours new scope for growth. The shares gained 10p to 371p.

Bula Resources sticks miserably at 2.25p although its ventures in the former Soviet Union appear to be making headway. Its Libyan exploration - funded by Occidental Petroleum - is also thought capable of producing rewards. The company has recently attracted two big supporters, Capital International and Morgan Grenfell, each with 7.6 per cent.

### SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, including exceptional items.

Other details: x Ex rights x Ex-dividend x Ex-call x Unlisted Securities Market x Suspended by Parity Paid per Nil Paid Shares.

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UK Stock Market 02  
UK Company News 03  
Foreign Exchange 04

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Call cost 35p per minute (excl. VAT), and 45p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

### MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

Share	Volume	Share	Volume	Share	Volume
National Grid	45,000	Fort	2,000	Standard Chartered	5,000
Lloyds TSB	15,000	BT	8,000	South & North	4,000
Vodafone	13,000	BT	7,000	Telecom	4,000
British Airways	10,000	BT	7,000	Telecom	4,000
BT	10,000	BT	7,000	Telecom	4,000

### FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index
09.00	3705.0	11.00	3717.0	13.00	3717.0
10.00	3710.0	12.00	3708.0	14.00	3717.0
11.00	3715.0	13.00	3717.0	15.00	3718.0
12.00	3715.0	14.00	3717.0	16.00	3718.0

### BANKS, MERCHANT

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Barclays	778.00	HSBC	1027.50	Lloyds TSB	325.00
Bank of Scotland	104.50	NatWest	678.00	Royal Bank	392.00
Bank of Ireland	104.50	ABN Amro	799.00	Refuge	474.00
Bank of Montreal	104.50	General Accident	659.00	Prudential	434.00

### BANKS, RETAIL

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Bank of America	104.50	Bank of Canada	104.50	Bank of China	104.50
Bank of India	104.50	Bank of Japan	104.50	Bank of Korea	104.50
Bank of Malaysia	104.50	Bank of New Zealand	104.50	Bank of Singapore	104.50
Bank of Thailand	104.50	Bank of Vietnam	104.50	Bank of West Indies	104.50

### BREWERIES

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Adnams	104.50	Beck's	104.50	Carlsberg	104.50
Guinness	104.50	Heineken	104.50	Kaiser Brewery	104.50
Miller	104.50	Orkla	104.50	Skarsten	104.50
Tennent	104.50	Wolfsberg	104.50	Wolfsberg	104.50

### DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### ELECTRICITY

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### ELECTRONICS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### BUILDING MATERIALS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### ENGINEERING

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### CHEMICALS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### DISTRIBUTORS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### INTERNATIONALS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### LEISURE & HOTELS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### OTHER FINANCIAL

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### GAS DISTRIBUTION

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### HEALTH CARE

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### INDEX-LINKED

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### SHORTS

Share	Price	Share	Price	Share	Price
Anglo American	104.50	Anglo Coal	104.50	Anglo Gold	104.50
Anglo Irish	104.50	Anglo Japanese	104.50	Anglo Latin	104.50
Anglo Pacific	104.50	Anglo Persian	104.50	Anglo Russian	104.50
Anglo Siam	104.50	Anglo Swiss	104.50	Anglo Turkish	104.50

### UNDATED

Share	Price	Share
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## FLY

# Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING

Country Spot 1 month 3 months

US 1.581 12-10 26-33

Canada 2.017 25-10 32-39

Germany 1.234 65- 64-54-44

France 1.232 65- 63-12

Japan 241.7 77-92 228-263

Italy 168.8 66-61 221-231

Spain 121.7 67- 71-28

Belgium 653.28 67- 71-28

Netherlands 23.628 63-56 337-342

Switzerland 134.0 64- 63-56

Norway 36-33 44- 43-15

Sweden 32.226 61-52 50-10

Australia 132.94 62-51 50-10

Hong Kong 15.97 62-51 50-10

New Zealand 2.274 62-51 50-10

Saudi Arabia 2.274 62-51 50-10

Singapore 2.203 0-0 0-0

DOLLAR

Country 1 month 3 months

US 1.000 0-0 0-0

Canada 1.000 0-0 0-0

Germany 1.234 65- 64-54-44

France 1.232 65- 63-12

Japan 241.7 77-92 228-263

Italy 168.8 66-61 221-231

Spain 121.7 67- 71-28

Belgium 653.28 67- 71-28

Netherlands 23.628 63-56 337-342

Switzerland 134.0 64- 63-56

Norway 36-33 44- 43-15

Sweden 32.226 61-52 50-10

Australia 132.94 62-51 50-10

Hong Kong 15.97 62-51 50-10

New Zealand 2.274 62-51 50-10

Saudi Arabia 2.274 62-51 50-10

Singapore 2.203 0-0 0-0

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country Sterling Dollar

Argentina 5.514 0.0099

Brazil 2.570 0.0099

India 4.642 0.2296

Kenya 1.232 0.0099

Malaysia 2.203 0.0099

Philippines 2.203 0.0099

South Africa 2.203 0.0099

Thailand 2.203 0.0099

Yemen 2.203 0.0099

Country Sterling Dollar

Algeria 5.514 0.0099

Brazil 2.570 0.0099

India 4.642 0.2296

Kenya 1.232 0.0099

Malaysia 2.203 0.0099

Philippines 2.203 0.0099

South Africa 2.203 0.0099

Thailand 2.203 0.0099

Yemen 2.203 0.0099

Interest Rates

Country 1 month 3 months

US 1.000 0-0 0-0

Canada 1.000 0-0 0-0

Germany 1.234 65- 64-54-44

France 1.232 65- 63-12

Japan 241.7 77-92 228-263

Italy 168.8 66-61 221-231

Spain 121.7 67- 71-28

Belgium 653.28 67- 71-28

Netherlands 23.628 63-56 337-342

Switzerland 134.0 64- 63-56

Norway 36-33 44- 43-15

Sweden 32.226 61-52 50-10

Australia 132.94 62-51 50-10

Hong Kong 15.97 62-51 50-10

New Zealand 2.274 62-51 50-10

Saudi Arabia 2.274 62-51 50-10

Singapore 2.203 0-0 0-0

Money Market Rates

Country 1 month 3 months 6 months 1 year

US 1.000 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0

Canada 1.000 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0

Germany 1.234 65- 64-54-44

France 1.232 65- 63-12

Japan 241.7 77-92 228-263

Italy 168.8 66-61 221-231

Spain 121.7 67- 71-28

Belgium 653.28 67- 71-28

Netherlands 23.628 63-56 337-342

Switzerland 134.0 64- 63-56

Norway 36-33 44- 43-15

Sweden 32.226 61-52 50-10

Australia 132.94 62-51 50-10

Hong Kong 15.97 62-51 50-10

New Zealand 2.274 62-51 50-10

Saudi Arabia 2.274 62-51 50-10

Singapore 2.203 0-0 0-0

Life Financial Futures

Contract Settlement price High/Low for day Est. Conts. traded Open interest

US 1.000 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0

Canada 1.000 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0

Germany 1.234 65- 64-54-44

France 1.232 65- 63-12

Japan 241.7 77-92 228-263

Italy 168.8 66-61 221-231

Spain 121.7 67- 71-28

Belgium 653.28 67- 71-28

Netherlands 23.628 63-56 337-342

Switzerland 134.0 64- 63-56

Norway 36-33 44- 43-15

Sweden 32.226 61-52 50-10

Australia 132.94 62-51 50-10

Hong Kong 15.97 62-51 50-10

New Zealand 2.274 62-51 50-10

Saudi Arabia 2.274 62-51 50-10

Singapore 2.203 0-0 0-0

Life FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price: 371.00 closing offer price 368.00 Call/Put Total vols

Series 8/89 8/90 8/91 8/92 8/93 8/94 8/95 8/96 8/97 8/98 8/99 9/00 9/01 9/02 9/03 9/04 9/05 9/06 9/07 9/08 9/09 9/10 9/11 9/12 9/13 9/14 9/15 9/16 9/17 9/18 9/19 9/20 9/21 9/22 9/23 9/24 9/25 9/26 9/27 9/28 9/29 9/30 10/1 10/2 10/3 10/4 10/5 10/6 10/7 10/8 10/9 10/10 10/11 10/12 10/13 10/14 10/15 10/16 10/17 10/18 10/19 10/20 10/21 10/22 10/23 10/24 10/25 10/26 10/27 10/28 10/29 10/30 10/31 11/1 11/2 11/3 11/4 11/5 11/6 11/7 11/8 11/9 11/10 11/11 11/12 11/13 11/14 11/15 11/16 11/17 11/18 11/19 11/20 11/21 11/22 11/23 11/24 11/25 11/26 11/27 11/28 11/29 11/30 12/1 12/2 12/3 12/4 12/5 12/6 12/7 12/8 12/9 12/10 12/11 12/12 12/13 12/14 12/15 12/16 12/17 12/18 12/19 12/20 12/21 12/22 12/23 12/24 12/25 12/26 12/27 12/28 12/29 12/30 12/31 1/1 1/2 1/3 1/4 1/5 1/6 1/7 1/8 1/9 1/10 1/11 1/12 1/13 1/14 1/15 1/16 1/17 1/18 1/19 1/20 1/21 1/22 1/23 1/24 1/25 1/26 1/27 1/28 1/29 1/30 2/1 2/2 2/3 2/4 2/5 2/6 2/7 2/8 2/9 2/10 2/11 2/12 2/13 2/14 2/15 2/16 2/17 2/18 2/19 2/20 2/21 2/22 2/23 2/24 2/25 2/26 2/27 2/28 2/29 2/30 3/1 3/2 3/3 3/4 3/5 3/6 3/7 3/8 3/9 3/10 3/11 3/12 3/13 3/14 3/15 3/16 3/17 3/18 3/19 3/20 3/21 3/22 3/23 3/24 3/25 3/26 3/27 3/28 3/29 3/30 3/31 4/1 4/2 4/3 4/4 4/5 4/6 4/7 4/8 4/9 4/10 4/11 4/12 4/13 4/14 4/15 4/16 4/17 4/18 4/19 4/20 4/21 4/22 4/23 4/24 4/25 4/26 4/27 4/28 4/29 4/30 5/1 5/2 5/3 5/4 5/5 5/6 5/7 5/8 5/9 5/10 5/11 5/12 5/13 5/14 5/15 5/16 5/17 5/18 5/19 5/20 5/21 5/22 5/23 5/24 5/25 5/26 5/27 5/28 5/29 5/30 5/31 6/







## sport

# Put to a punter locally who had seen his selection make up ground to scamper home in a dog race, it elicited predictable scepticism

Doubtless there exists in the minds of many readers the irritating idea of pretentious sports columnists or commentators who know all the answers offhand and can settle troublesome issues with absolute finality. Bearing this in mind, close attention is being paid personally to a thought advanced in an educational aid that came my way over the holiday period and has been discussed since in the company of careworn bettors. It is that the majority of racehorses, in common with greyhounds, don't quicken.

Put to a punter locally who had seen his selection make up ground to scamper home in a dog race screened from Sunderland, it elicited

what you may think to be predictable scepticism. "Bollocks," he said gruffly. In staggered disbelief he went on to suggest, with great simplicity and patience, that no account should be paid to idle rumours.

To many people this may appear to be a trivial theme in days of great sporting upheaval and what passes for progress. But, according to Alan Potts in his book *Against The Crowd: The method of a modern backer*, a great deal of the information published about horseracing is utterly misleading and largely worthless.

This applies especially, Potts insists, to the notion that horses even under the most persistent urging can be persuaded to produce winning

bursts of acceleration. To substantiate his theory, Potts, who claims to turn a healthy profit, offers the example of a human: the Olympic 100 metre champion, Linford Christie. "[Christie's] races have produced similar scenarios, with Christie storming through to overtake his rivals in the final third of the race, to win, usually going away at the finish. If you had to describe in a single word the quality that makes Christie successful, I suspect 'Power' would top the list of answers."

Consider the term "turn of foot", which is used to describe the quality that enables a horse to outpace its rivals in the closing stages and you have some idea of what Potts, clearly



KEN JONES

no respecter of reputations, is getting at. With rare exceptions (Shergar, Dancing Brave and Desert Orchid are offered as examples), he considers the notion of such accel-

eration to be nonsense. Especially as this argument questions seriously the knowledge put forth by trainers, jockeys and racing tipsters; we are on dodgy ground here, but no matter.

Making further use of Christie's career, Potts adds: "Detailed analysis of Christie's running has shown that his victories don't result from acceleration on his part, but from the fact that his ability and training allow him to maintain top speed for longer than his rivals. When he appears to be 'powering home', he is simply maintaining a level speed whilst his rivals are slowing down."

What struck me before I was half-way through digesting this was that

it should have been fairly obvious. Some years ago, when preparing an article on a remarkably successful canine, Balleyregan Bob, I consulted a man who has spent many years around dog tracks without suffering any great anguish. "Dogs run at even pace," he said. "Don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

Well, that is more or less what Potts believes about racehorses. "The quality we are seeking will be demonstrated over the final two furlongs of a race, whatever the distance," he writes. "It is in this part of the race that the average speed will increase and the horse with the power will be the one who sustains this increased speed over all,

or at least most, of the quarter mile, and will gradually draw away from most of his rivals as they slow down and he maintains his speed... if two or three horses remain together through to the finish, then in all probability they are simply slowing down together, and others will close from behind. They may even be headed by a horse coming from behind."

That none of this was advertised widely on the publication of Potts' book last year is understandable. You see, he does not appear to go much on most of the people who are professionally involved in racing. Thinks they are not to be trusted. Not with the truth anyway.



Spotland style: Mick Docherty, the Rochdale manager and son of Tommy, has put a smile back on the face of the once maligned Third Division club

Photograph: David Ashdown

## Realism rules Docherty's fantasy

Down the generations, Rochdale have tested football fans' sense of humour as few clubs can. Even the most humble of aspirations have proved wildly extravagant and the consequences devastating.

Whole regimes, not merely managers, have "died" on the Spoutland stage. Tommy Cannon, never to be forgotten in these parts as "that comedian of a chairman", arrived with his panto and television countenance only to depart with a scowl and the derision of the locals heating his eardrums.

Financial crises have pushed the club to the brink of extinction, and well-intentioned endeavours have not always been enough. In 1939, a "shilling fund" to help pay the players' wages raised precisely that - a shilling.

The present board, led by David Kilpatrick, a former undertaker, have resuscitated the corpse. Yet at the start of this season, there remained scant prospect of Rochdale's rising

from the bottom division that had entombed them for 21 years. But then no one had accounted for the influence of their manager. In fact, as the directors concede to their shame, they promoted Mick Docherty from caretaker more by luck than judgement, late in the disarray of last season.

Negotiations with other candidates became a shambles and, as the club's financial director, Graham Morris, recognised, would have drained not only their coffers but also their morality. New managers tend to have their own back-room staff in tow, which would have meant sacking Docherty and his trusted aide, Jimmy Robson.

Docherty has embarked upon the task with a seemingly boundless inner resilience and a public visage encouraged by his father, Tommy, a manager who had a gag whatever his emotions or club of the day.

"My dad always told me that no matter what troubles I might have, the moment you step through the door for work you make sure you have your stick-

The Rochdale manager is laughing all the way to Anfield, says **Derick Allsop**

on smile, because if the players see you are down, you haven't got a chance," Docherty junior said.

The family resolve has been examined by family and professional traumas, but Mick, a chip off the old Doc, is swagging through with his smile, his one-liners, and a football team delivering long-lost cheer to this corner of Lancashire.

Rochdale are in the midst of the promotion contest and on Saturday have one of those dates they fantasise about in the lower reaches of the game: an FA Cup third-round tie at Liverpool.

Docherty, who learned his trade with Burnley and also played for Manchester City and Sunderland, has achieved the

transformation with meagre resources - he was allowed to lavish £20,000 on the signing of a goalkeeper, Ian Gray - and abundant energy. The players respond to his brand of man management ("I treat them the way chip off the old Doc") and his demands for constructive football.

"What you learn above all else at our level is that you just have to get on with it," Docherty said. "Last season we had to beg, steal or borrow to get a goalkeeper. Now we're well off in that department. We still have to beg, steal, or borrow when it comes to training because we don't have our own training ground, and as we share Spoutland with Rochdale Hornets rugby league club, we can't use that."

For Docherty and his players, this tie means much more besides. "These lads may never get another chance to play against a team like that in a stadium like that," he said. "It's tight years

"We get use of an all-weather pitch, but even that can be leech over. One or two schools lend us their gyms and sometimes we'll go upstairs in the stand and organise some circuit training. You just have to improvise."

That ethic extends, in the manager's case, to organising the laundering of the kit with the local infirmary and taking over the responsibilities of MC at a fund-raising dinner for the club's centre of excellence.

Money is a subject never far from the consciousness of Rochdale. If necessary, they would sell a player - perhaps the redoubtable central defender, Paul Butler, or the midfield orchestrator, Jason Peake - but the trip to Anfield feeds off immediate pressures. "It will make us at least £100,000, even up to £125,000," Docherty enthused.

For Docherty and his players, this tie means much more besides. "These lads may never get another chance to play against a team like that in a stadium like that," he said. "It's tight years

from our world. And for me it's the chance to pit myself against Roy Evans. It's an unbelievable experience for all of us. The excitement is difficult to explain to anyone who doesn't know the Third Division."

"I watched Liverpool on television beat Manchester United the other week and wanted to switch off after 10 minutes. But, as Alex Ferguson admitted, his team were very poor on the day and if we play the same way, relative to our ability, we'll get exploited tenfold."

"We're going to try and win, but if we went out there intent on all-out attack, they'd murder us, so we've got to be realistic. The longer the game goes on scoreless, who knows? I went there in 1981 with Sunderland and we had to win to guarantee staying up. We won 1-0."

Omens being the pillars of football optimism, Docherty might also consider this: his father capped his contribution to Manchester United's cause by winning the FA Cup in 1977.

The opposition in the final? Liverpool, of course.

## Todd brings in Porterfield as Bolton No 2

## Football

Colin Todd's first decision in sole charge of Bolton yesterday was to appoint Ian Porterfield, the former Chelsea, Aberdeen and Sheffield United manager, as his assistant.

Porterfield, who has been a free agent since leaving Zambia, where he was the national team manager, joined the Premier League's basement team following the dismissal of their joint-manager, Roy McFarland.

Tuesday's decision to appease Bolton fans by splitting the pairing took the players by surprise - recent signing Scott Sellars heard about it on television - and was met with mixed reactions. The centre-half Alan Stubbs said: "I don't think two managers work. You never really know who the boss is." The striker John McGinlay added: "Roy McFarland was a really nice guy, maybe too nice."

Todd and Porterfield are old friends, having been players together at Sunderland, where Porterfield is remembered for scoring the winner in the 1973 FA Cup final.

Their first game in charge is Saturday's trip to Bradford in the FA Cup, which yesterday became the latest competition to fall in line with the Bosman judgement sweeping away restrictions on foreign players.

Sir Bert Millichip, 81, has confirmed that he will step

down this summer after 15 years as FA chairman. In his annual letter to FA members, Sir Bert also reiterated his support for the England coach, Terry Venables, dismissing "trial by daily slur", but insisting that "the truth" behind the "damaging allegations" sowing the "game" must emerge in 1996.

West Ham are to sign the Croatian international Slaven Bilic - subject to work permit clearance, which could take up to a month. The Hammers, who have agreed a £1.2m fee with Karlsruhe for the centre-half, are also giving a trial to the Toulouse striker Philippe Chanol.

Wimbledon and Everton are to be asked to explain why Joe Royle was reportedly shown the boardroom door at Selhurst Park on Monday. Royle praised the referee, Alan Wilkie, after his Everton side had won 3-2, saying: "He was excellent in a siege situation... it would have been easy for a less experienced referee to have cracked." He is said to have made similar comments in the boardroom.

The Blackburn striker, Alan Shearer, has been cleared of allegations that he made obscene gestures at Middlesbrough fans on 16 December.

Nigeria have been warned that they risk a six-year suspension from the African Nations' Cup if they go ahead with the decision to withdraw from the tournament in South Africa later this month.

## Maradona reveals his fight against drugs

Diego Maradona outlined his struggle with cocaine addiction in a magazine interview, saying he was speaking out against drugs "for the kids".

"I was, I am and I always will be a drug addict," Maradona said in *Gente*, in which he discusses his drug problem for the first time. "You can't just get up and say: 'I was an addict,' he said. "You have to wake up and say: 'Today, I'm going to continue my fight against the hell of drugs. Only that way can you fight and try to recover.'"

The 35-year-old player was arrested in 1991 for drug possession and distribution and sentenced to court-supervised treatment. "I suffered a lot because of drugs, much more than anyone could believe, and I'm go-

ing to explain my suffering to the young people," said Maradona, who underwent two 15-month playing suspensions, in 1991 and 1994, after positive drug tests.

Maradona, who now plays for Boca Juniors in Argentina, said that he began using cocaine in 1982, at the age of 22, while playing in Europe. "My family suffered many painful experiences," he told the magazine. He related how his daughter, Gianina, once asked him for a glass of water while he was lying on a bed and could not reach it.

"I couldn't get up. I felt like I was stuck to the mattress. And my hand shook," he said. "She asked me: 'Well, Daddy, won't you get me the water?' and I just couldn't do it. The cocaine had numbed me completely."

## CRICKET: West Indies in decline while England languish among the international also-rans. Robert Winder reports

### Warne and Steve Waugh keep Australians at the summit

For international cricket, 1995 was a year of revolutions. The West Indies, who for two decades have ruled the roost, were finally toppled: soundly beaten at home by Australia, and held to a humiliating draw by - if we are honest - one of cricket's minnow nations: England.

But at least one thing is certain: Australia remain the top dogs. They followed their triumph in the Caribbean by humbling Pakistan in the first two Tests of a gruelling series inflamed by the bribery allegations between Salim Malik, Tim May and Shane Warne - and they have held on to their top place in the *Independent* Table of Test Cricket, with the West Indies dropping to third.

There is not much doubt that Australia deserve their top billing. In Shane Warne they have the world's least playable bowler - in the recent series against Pakistan he took 19 wickets in just two Tests, and was man of the series. Their batting is enviably resourceful: Steve Waugh remains the world's No 1 by carrying on from where he left off in the West Indies - his unbeaten century set up

INDEPENDENT TABLE OF TEST CRICKET																									
INDEPENDENT TABLE OF TEST CRICKET												Test series results since 1994/95 season													
Matches	Home					Away					Series		Season	Tests	Home	Away	Series	Result							
	P	W	D	L	Pts	Ave	P	W	D	L	Pts	Ave							P	W	L	Bonus	Points		
Australia	46	24	13	6	5	770	32.08	22	9	8	5	1220	55.40	12	7	3	11.66	99.24	1995/96	3	AUSTRALIA	PAKISTAN	Australia	2-1	
Pakistan	32	12	5	5	2	350	29.17	20	9	4	7	1080	53.00	10	7	3	14.00	96.17	1995/96	3	INDIA	NEW ZEALAND	India	1-0	
West Indies	28	12	6	3	3	360	30.00	16	6	6	4	840	52.50	9	5	1	11.11	93.81	1995/96	3	PAKISTAN	SRI LANKA	Sri Lanka	2-1	
South Africa	19	10	4	4	2	280	28.00	9	3	4	2	480	51.11	8	3	0	10.00	89.11							
India	24	9	5	3	1	310	34.44	15	4	5	4	640	42.60	7	4	2	11.42	88.46	1995	6	ENGLAND	WEST INDIES	Drawn	2-2	
England	39	26	6	8	12	460	17.69	13	4	3	6	520	40.00	9	2	5	4.44	62.13	1994/95	4	WEST INDIES	AUSTRALIA	Australia	2-1	
Sri Lanka	25	11	1	6	4	170	15.45	14	3	6	5	540	38.51	9	3	5	6.66	60.82	1994/95	2	NEW ZEALAND	SRI LANKA	Sri Lanka	1-0	
New Zealand	29	13	2	4	7	180	13.85	16	2	7	7	480	30.00	11	1	8	1.81	45.66	1994/95	2	NEW ZEALAND	WEST INDIES	West Indies	1-0	
Zimbabwe	11	8	1	1	4	3	130	46.25	8	0	1	2	40	13.33	4	0	3	0	25.58	1994/95	3	ZIMBABWE	PAKISTAN	Pakistan	2-1
Points are calculated as follows: the table includes all matches over a four-year period dating back to 1 January 1992. Teams get 50 points for a home victory, 20 for a home draw and 0 for a defeat. From the home points total a home average is calculated. Teams get 100 points for an away victory, 40 for an away draw and 0 for an away defeat. From the away points total an away average is calculated. Bonus points (BP) are awarded for series victories. The number of series victories is divided by the number of series played and the total multiplied by 20. The total consists of the home average plus the away average plus the bonus points. Series must consist of at least two games. Drawn matches in which more than a third of the playing hours are washed out (10 or more hours or five or more sessions) are not counted.																		1994/95	5	AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND	Australia	3-1		
																		1994/95	3	SOUTH AFRICA	NEW ZEALAND	South Africa	2-1		
																		1994/95	3	INDIA	WEST INDIES	Drawn	1-1		
																		1994/95	3	ZIMBABWE	SRI LANKA	Drawn	1-0		
																		1994/95	3	PAKISTAN	AUSTRALIA	Pakistan	1-0		
																		1994/95	3	SRI LANKA	PAKISTAN	Pakistan	2-0		

Points are calculated as follows: the table includes all matches over a four-year period dating back to 1 January 1992. Teams get 50 points for a home victory, 20 for a home draw and 0 for a defeat. From the home points total a home average is calculated. Teams get 100 points for an away victory, 40 for an away draw and 0 for an away defeat. From the away points total an away average is calculated. Bonus points (BP) are awarded for series victories. The number of series victories is divided by the number of series played and the total multiplied by 20. The total consists of the home average plus the away average plus the bonus points. Series must consist of at least two games. Drawn matches in which more than a third of the playing hours are washed out (10 or more hours or five or more sessions) are not counted.

Australia's victory in the first Test set the tone for the whole series. Also, Slater, Taylor and Mark Waugh also figure strongly in anyone's list of top batsmen.

There was much talk in England this summer about the success of the Australian method: the much vaunted Academy of Cricket, which embarrassed

to be the case that cricket is, for the moment at least, an Australian game.

Pakistan have had, by any standards, a rotten year: bribery allegations, walk-outs, official enquiries and a couple of heavy defeats Down Under. But their record in recent years remains good enough to secure second place in the table. The rankings are calculated on a four-year basis, so are not easily swayed by temporary bursts or dips of

form. In that period Pakistan have won steadily away from home - the sure route to high points in the statistician's formula (see table). In 1992 Pakistan beat England 2-1, then went to New Zealand and won 1-0. They lost 2-0 in the West Indies (as everybody did back then) but bounced back by winning 2-0 in Zimbabwe, 2-1 in New Zealand, 2-0 in Sri Lanka and 2-1 in Zimbabwe again.

Their recent defeat by Australia was, apart from anything else, no more than revenge for the 1-0 reverse Australia suffered in Pakistan in 1994. Even so, their recovery in the final Test at Sydney, where they beat Australia by 75 runs, was enough to net them 100 points from the series. The same as Australia gained for their two victories.

If the generous premium on away wins helps Pakistan, so too does another feature of our arithmetic: the refusal to vary

the award of points according to the strength of the opposition. Pakistan have picked up most of their points against Zimbabwe. New Zealand and Sri Lanka, by no means the heavyweights of international cricket. This obscures some tense cricket politics: it is not an accident that Pakistan have not played host to the stronger nations - it has become an unpopular destination (especially now that South Africa, with its

swimming pools, beaches and golf courses, is back in the fold).

South Africa themselves have had an impressive start to their new life in the international cricket circus, good enough to join the top table, which does have a marked two-tier feel. The gaps between the top five countries - Australia, Pakistan, the West Indies and South Africa and India - are quite small, but there is quite a gulf then to

England, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.

One of the other things the table reveals is a sharp difference in the number of games played by the various teams. Brian Lara will not be consoled, in the light of his claims that he is exhausted by too much cricket, by the fact that the West Indies have only played 28 Tests in the past four years, not much more than half the number played by Australia (46) or England (39).

The problem with any ranking of international results is that it is not a level playing field: it is not as if everyone has played everyone else. The table does, however, put the teams in roughly the order one would expect. Australia will, to judge by the strength of their young teams, take quite a bit of knocking off. But it should be noted that none of this is any sort of guide to the forthcoming World Cup. All the recent charts reveal what everyone knows: that one-day cricket is a different game. Indeed it is pretty much an exact reversal of Test match form - India and England come out top. So, roll on February - and may the worst side win.

محمد علی جناح



# Seles set to revive Grand Slam momentum

Monica Seles, in common with many, is about to return to work after being laid low with a virus. She is in excellent spirits, however, having journeyed to Australia, a country where she has experienced nothing but success and happiness.

The Australian Open was the setting for the last of Seles's eight Grand Slam triumphs before she was stabbed in the back in Germany in April 1993. Her victory against Steffi Graf extended a perfect record in Melbourne to 21 matches, completing a hat-trick of Australian Open titles.

She recalled the occasion with particular pleasure, remembering it as the first time she felt comfortable being the world No 1, and expressed delight and relief to be back. "I'm very excited because even about two

weeks ago I wasn't sure I was going to be able to make it," said Seles, who will accommodate for the main event, which starts on 15 January, by competing in Sydney for the first time next week.

Seles's enthusiasm is matched by the Australian Open organisers, who rely heavily on her participation, having lost Graf to injury for the second consecutive year. The Wimbledon champion, who shares the No 1 ranking with Seles, has undergone foot surgery. Seles has had numerous health problems since their epic United States Open final in September.

"I had a great US Open and I wanted to keep continuing that momentum, and it was just frustrating not to be able to finish the year off," Seles said. The virus compounded her troubles

**John Roberts talks to the joint No 1 in women's tennis, who is finally free of injury and preparing for the Australian Open**

after she tore ankle ligaments while endeavouring to cope with a knee injury which has bothered her since training for her comeback last July.

"I started feeling very weak, too tired to do anything, and I had to go to hospital one time," she said. "They did blood tests and I've been on antibiotics."

Now the less, Seles is preparing to mop her brow, tape her ankles, wear shoes with reinforced soles to protect her knees on the hard courts, and face the challenge of playing for a solid month. "I have never done that before and I'm a little nervous about it, but I'm going to see how it works," she said.

"It will be quite a test I think. Fitness-wise and mentally, also. I'm nervous because I'm going from Australia, where it's summer, to Japan, where it's going to be cold and it's indoors and on synthetic grass. That will be a tough adjustment."

Keen to sharpen her match fitness, the 22-year-old Seles has two particular goals in mind: Wimbledon - "the one Grand Slam I haven't done well in" - and making her debut at the Olympics, in which she hopes to represent the United States. "I can't wait for the opening-day ceremonies," she said. "That's the main thing, just being there and watching a few other athletes and being in the stands and cheering for them."

Her thoughts are stretching four years beyond Atlanta, however. "Hopefully, while I'm in Sydney I'll be able to see some of the sights," she said. "They're preparing for the next summer

Olympics. I'm looking forward very much to both of them."

Having won \$7.8m (£5.2m) in official prize-money alone, in spite of being out of the game for 27 months after the stabbing, Seles can afford to adopt a Corinthian approach. In expressing opposition to the Australian Open's decision to abandon equal prize-money, except in the case of the singles champions, she said: "I do hope that they'll change that, because I don't think it's fair. But I would still play tennis, even if there would be no prize-money at all."

She was asked if she took a greater interest in her financial affairs than Graf, whose father/manager, Peter, is accused of evading tax on his daughter's earnings. Seles explained that her finances are handled by her

agents. "I do my expenses, and those things are my worry," she said. "But when you put your signature on tax returns, you have to know what you're signing: all of us, not just an athlete. I think after 18 you have to know what's going on for later on in your life, after you stop playing tennis."

She added that she began to learn about travel arrangements from the age of nine, and there is evidence to suggest that she also kept track of her income from an early age.

Shortly after turning professional at the age of 15 in 1989, Seles visited a tournament official and thanked the organisers. When she did not leave, she was asked if she was waiting for her father. "No," she said. "I'm waiting for my cheque."

## Saints in crisis as Joynt is ruled out

**Rugby League**  
DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens' key forward, Chris Joynt, has lost his battle for fitness for tonight's delayed Regal Trophy semi-final against Warrington. Joynt's shoulder injury has forced him to join Paul Newlove and Anthony Sullivan on the sidelines, although both he and Newlove should be fit for the final on 13 January if Saints can overcome their neighbours.

Better news for their coach, Eric Hughes, is that Joey Hayes, Keiron Cunningham and Apollo Perrelli have all been passed fit. If the delay caused by the weekend's frost has helped Saints recall some of their injured players, it has done nothing for Warrington. Dave King is definitely out after breaking a bone in his hand and Paul Sculthorpe compound position after injuring his hip, also against Wigan on New Year's Day.

With Mike Wainwright already ruled out and Kelly Sheldford still recovering from a chest infection, Warrington have problems at the back of the scrum. The only certain starter in the back row, in fact, is the newly appointed club captain, Paul Cullen, whose leadership qualities could be badly needed.

Another injury hit club, Halifax, have their new recruit from Auckland, Martin Moana, making his debut in their league match against Oldham tonight.

Salford, who go to Widnes tonight and need just two wins from four remaining matches to clinch the First Division title, will be without Richard Webster, for the rest of the season. Webster has broken his thumb.

## Cobner is Welsh favourite

**Rugby Union**

Terry Cobner, the former Wales flanker and captain, is favourite to be named as the Welsh Rugby Union's new director of rugby today.

The WRU received around 80 applications from all over the world for the £50,000-a-year post, with the Australian Dick Marks among those believed to have made the shortlist.

Cobner, who is on the coaching staff at Oundle College, captained Pontypool for 10 successive seasons.

He won 19 caps for Wales, captaining them on their tour to Australia in 1978, and toured New Zealand with the 1977 Lions.

Tony Gray, a former Wales coach, and the Swansea supremo Mike Ruddock are also understood to be in the running.

Wales's outside-half Neil Jenkins has a broken collarbone and will miss the international against Italy on Tuesday 16 January and may be absent for the Five Nations' Championship game against England at Twickenham on 3 February.

## Stewart's F1 return to be sealed today

**Motor racing**

The three-times world drivers' champion, Jackie Stewart, will return to Formula One next year as the head of his son's upgraded team, which will be backed by Ford and have serious world title ambitions. The new team, to be called Stewart Grand Prix, will be announced at a news conference at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit today.

"It will be good to be back," Stewart said. "I have not missed Formula One but now, with the involvement of Ford, I am in a position where I believe there is a good chance to succeed."

Stewart, who won 27 grands prix in 99 races and claimed the world championship in 1969, 1971 and 1973, has been out of motor racing for 22 years.

However, the multi-millionaire has stayed in touch with the sport through his son, Paul, and his British-based team, Paul Stewart Racing, who have been successful in the junior formulas. Stewart Sr will return in

1997, fronting a team backed by Ford and with a five-year plan to challenge Williams, Benetton and Ferrari.

Until now, the Paul Stewart Racing team have only been involved in the British and European Formula Three and Formula 3,000 series. The step up to Formula One will be massive. Stewart Sr, who retired one short of his century of races in 1973 following the death of his team-mate, Francois Cevert, has been closely linked with Ford for many years, acting as a test driver and public relations adviser.

Ford powered Michael Schumacher to his first world drivers' championship in 1994 when the German was with Benetton. Renault later replaced Ford at Benetton.

Ford's backing of Stewart Grand Prix may mean the end for the Swiss team, Sauber, who will lose the American company's engines. However, Ford are determined to take on the front-runners in Formula One - and they have chosen Stewart as the man to front their challenge.

## French driver killed in Sahara minefield

**Rallying**

A Frenchman involved in the Granada-Dakar Rally was killed yesterday when his lorry hit a mine close to the rally route in southern Morocco. Laurent Gueguen, who was driving a support truck for the Citroën team, was said to have veered from the route cleared through a minefield left after the 1976-89 war in the Western Sahara. The truck caught fire, trapping him inside.

Gueguen's co-drivers, Pascal Loudonot and Vincent Baudin, were injured in the accident, which completely destroyed their Mercedes vehicle. They were reported to be in a satisfactory condition and flown back to Europe by air ambulance.

The accident occurred between Fom of Hassan and Smara, 157 kilometres into the

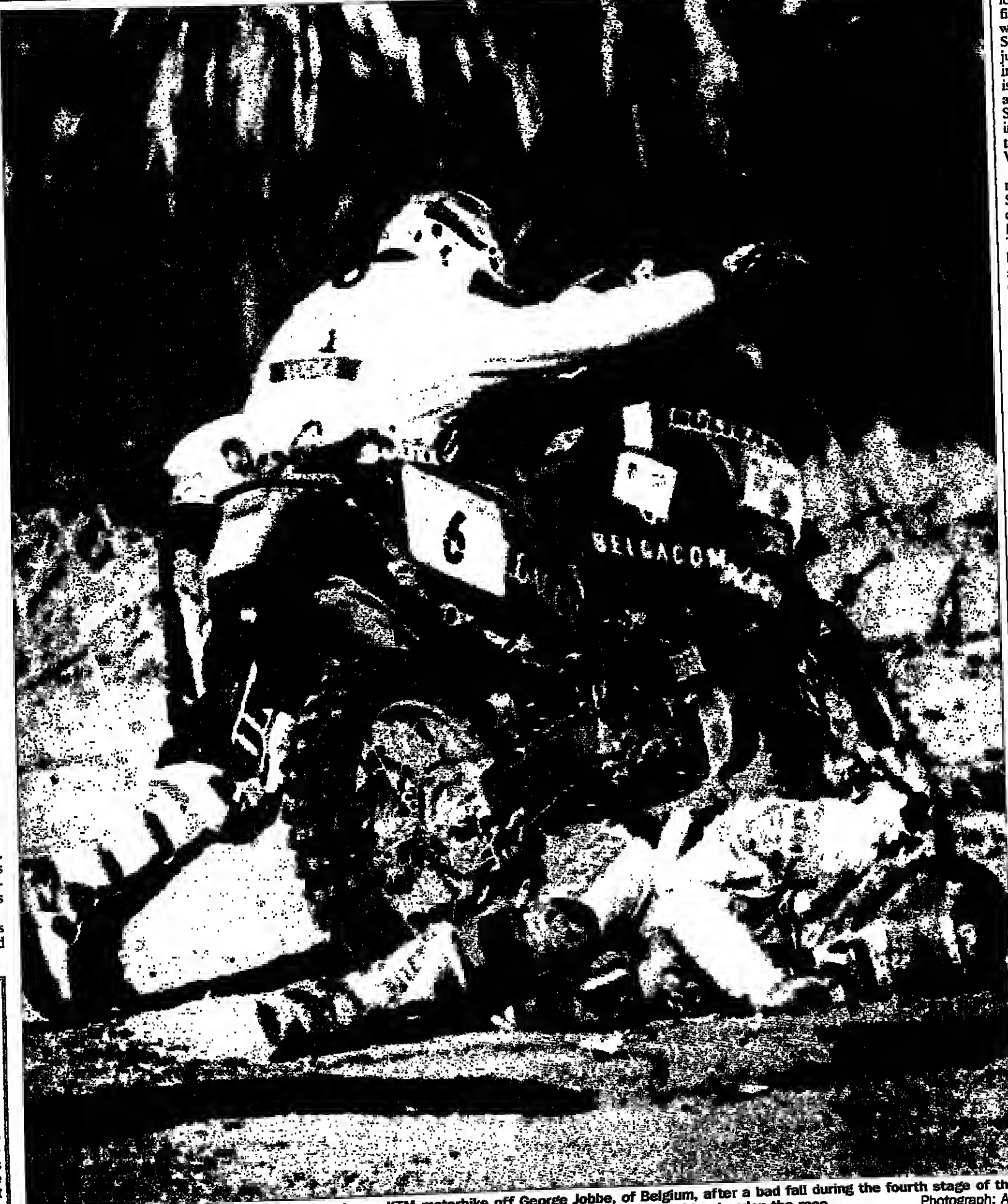
fifth stage of the 7,600km event. The rest of the rally vehicles passed through the area, patrolled by United Nations troops, without incident.

More than 30 competitors and spectators have been killed in the race's 18-year history.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

100

The number of miles Southern United want imposed as a limit on Christmas and New Year fixtures in the Endleigh League to prevent excessive travelling by players and supporters.



Desert drama: The Russian rider Nifontov pushes a KTM motorbike off George Jobbe, of Belgium, after a bad fall during the fourth stage of the Granada-Dakar Rally between Er-Rachidia and El Hassan in Morocco yesterday. Jobbe was forced to abandon the race. Photograph: AP

### SPORTING DIGEST

#### Basketball

NBA: Seattle 111, Denver 98; New Jersey 91, Milwaukee 82; Portland 101, New York 92; Cleveland 103, Washington 100; Houston 105, Minnesota 100; San Antonio 102, Dallas 92; Indiana 102, Denver 81; Philadelphia 90, LA Lakers 89.

WNBA: Phoenix 22, Minnesota 17; New York 21, Washington 17; Los Angeles 21, Seattle 17; San Antonio 21, Houston 17; Dallas 21, Cleveland 17; Portland 21, Milwaukee 17; Chicago 21, Philadelphia 17; Detroit 21, Orlando 17; Sacramento 21, Utah 17; Golden State 21, New Jersey 17; Miami 21, Atlanta 17; Boston 21, Phoenix 17; LA Clippers 21, San Antonio 17; Houston 21, Dallas 17; Cleveland 21, Portland 17; Milwaukee 21, Chicago 17; Philadelphia 21, Detroit 17; Orlando 21, Sacramento 17; Utah 21, Golden State 17; New Jersey 21, Miami 17; Atlanta 21, Boston 17; Phoenix 21, LA Clippers 17; San Antonio 21, Houston 17; Dallas 21, Cleveland 17; Portland 21, Milwaukee 17; Chicago 21, Philadelphia 17; Detroit 21, Orlando 17; Sacramento 21, Utah 17; Golden State 21, New Jersey 17; Miami 21, Atlanta 17; Boston 21, Phoenix 17; LA Clippers 21, San Antonio 17; Houston 21, Dallas 17; Cleveland 21, Portland 17; Milwaukee 21, Chicago 17; Philadelphia 21, Detroit 17; Orlando 21, Sacramento 17; Utah 21, Golden State 17; 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New Jersey 21, Miami 17; Atlanta 21, Boston 17; Phoenix 21, LA Clippers 17; San Antonio 21, Houston 17; Dallas 21, Cleveland 17; Portland 21, Milwaukee 17; Chicago 21, Philadelphia 17; Detroit 21, Orlando 17; Sacramento 21, Utah 17; Golden State 21, New Jersey 17; Miami 21, Atlanta 17; Boston 21, Phoenix 17; LA Clippers 21, San Antonio 17; Houston 21, Dallas 17; Cleveland 21, Portland 17; Milwaukee 21, Chicago 17; Philadelphia 21, Detroit 17; Orlando 21, Sacramento 17; Utah 21, Golden State 17; New Jersey 21, Miami 17; Atlanta 21, Boston 17; Phoenix 21, LA Clippers 17; San Antonio 21, Houston 17; Dallas 21, Cleveland 17; Portland 21, Milwaukee 17; Chicago 21, Philadelphia 17; Detroit 21, Orlando 17; Sacramento 21, Utah 17; Golden State 21, New Jersey 17; Miami 21, Atlanta 17; Boston 21, Phoenix 17; LA Clippers 21, San Antonio 17; Houston 21, Dallas 17; Cleveland 21, Portland 17; Milwaukee 21, Chicago 17; Philadelphia 21, Detroit 17; Orlando 21, Sacramento 17; Utah 21, Golden State 17; New Jersey 21, Miami 17; Atlanta 21, Boston 17; Phoenix 21, LA Clippers 17; San Antonio 21, Houston 17; Dallas 21, Cleveland 17; Portland 21, Milwaukee 17; Chicago



# Atherton slip has England on back foot

MAKES REMARKABLE FORT  
PROVIDES CLEAR WATER FROM  
SOUTHERN RIVER OF TEXAS  
FORMATION, WITH THE LATEST  
TECHNICAL